

Departure with a Belly

Departure with a Belly

Chapter 90

It was only when Claudia's forehead almost came into contact with the steps that she realized things had gotten out of hand. She only wanted to fall over, not injure her face.

At the most critical moment, she subconsciously covered her face with her hands, but she still injured herself terribly. Everyone could hear her crashing into the steps with a thud.

"Claudia!"

Her friends came to their senses and rushed over to help. The people from the private room also arrived at this point.

Victoria was rooted to the spot, remaining in the same posture. She looked at her hand and squinted her eyes. I didn't touch her at all. How did she even fall over? Did she twist her ankle or something?

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

Just then, an icy voice was heard asking, "What happened?"

Hearing the voice, Victoria seemed to realize something.

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Alaric and Bane arrived at the same time. When Alaric saw that Victoria's hair was a mess, his expression changed as he spun the woman around to face him. "Did she hurt you?"

At that moment, a startled Victoria looked at the man in disbelief. Was I the first one he noticed when he arrived? I've always thought he's concerned about Claudia only. Is that what Norwood meant when he told me to feel it with my heart?

Before she could ponder, someone called out, "Claudia is bleeding, Alaric!"

Hearing that, Victoria subconsciously lifted her gaze, only to be met with Alaric's dark gaze. He was also staring at her, but his gaze was conflicted. She pressed her lips together and remained silent. Let's see what he'll do.

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

I'll find out if I'm significant in his heart this time.

While she was deep in thought, she felt the man loosening his grip on her shoulders. Her pupils dilated as her heart sank. She took a look at the man's hands.

Alaric noticed her glance and pressed his lips into a line. As though having made up his mind, he whispered, "She's injured. I have to take a look."

There you go. I'm not so important to him, after all. Victoria put on an almost imperceptible sneer, which served as a response to the man's

words.

Alaric frowned at her reaction, so he clenched her shoulders and said through gritted teeth, "Wait for me."

The next moment, he released Victoria as she watched the man shuffling toward Claudia. Her shoulders slumped as though she didn't have any energy left to support her weight.

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Just then, a pair of hands came into contact with her shoulders. A startled Victoria turned her head.

Bane sensitively caught sight of the sorrow behind her gaze. He calmly adjusted his glasses and flashed a smile at her. "Are you alright?"

Victoria only pursed her lips in response. The next instant, a muffled cry caught her attention.

Presently, Claudia covered her forehead with her hands as blood streamed through the gap between her fingers. The blood was in stark contrast to her fair skin.

Victoria furrowed her brows when she saw so much blood, not expecting the woman to be badly injured.

"It was Victoria who pushed Claudia!" someone shouted all of a sudden.

In an instant, everyone shifted their attention to Victoria.

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

While staying by Claudia's side, Elaine glared resentfully at Victoria. "Yes, it was her. Claudia went to talk to her, but she pushed Claudia away. That's how Claudia crashed into the steps!"

Hearing that, those who came from the private room recalled seeing Victoria extending her hand. Did she push Claudia away? She's pretty ruthless if she really did that.

All of them looked cautiously at Victoria, who remained unfazed. Alaric carried Claudia from the floor and said grimly, "We'll look into the matter later. Let's send her to the hospital first."

Then, he brushed past Victoria with Claudia in his arms while Claudia's friends followed them. When walking past Victoria, Elaine said smugly, "Let's see how you're going to explain it."

She tottered away after mocking the woman. Those who came from the private room exchanged glances in embarrassment.

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

It was a welcome-back party for Bane, but everything ended up in a mess. As such, they apologized to Bane, who gently told them it was fine. He asked them to go home first and come out for a gathering next time. Following the incident, they were no longer in any mood to party, so they went home respectively.

After they were gone, Victoria turned around to leave. Bane extended his hand to stop her and said, "I'll send you home."

Victoria pushed his hand away. "Thanks, but there's no need for that."

With that, she ignored Bane's reaction and moved forward. When she rounded a corner, she saw Norwood standing there on his own.

As their eyes met, Norwood appeared hesitant to speak. Victoria flashed a smile at him and whispered, "I'll take my leave now. We'll meet again if there's a chance."

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

Norwood swallowed his words and nodded with difficulty. "Sure. Stay safe."

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"Thanks."

Norwood watched the slender figure leave. It wasn't until the woman was out of sight that he pocketed his gaze and shook his head helplessly. Are the two of them not meant to be together?

The chilly wind at night made Victoria feel uncomfortable.

Presently, she was seated on a long bench just outside the hotel on her own with a pair of wireless earbuds in her ears while she listened to Summer's intense cursing.

"Da mn it! Those women are shameless! How did they have the nerve to do that? Also, Claudia was so bold. She was even willing to risk deforming her face to frame you. That's pretty awesome, eh? I finally understand why

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain It?

you're not a match for her. She can do everything just to achieve her goals!"

Claudia had helped Victoria before. Even though Victoria regarded her as a love rival and couldn't be her friend, she still had a good impression of Claudia. She believed the woman wouldn't do any despicable things.

However, she was certain that she didn't touch Claudia at all, so how did the woman fall over earlier? Was she trying to frame me? Or was it merely an accident? A doubt remained in her heart.

"She's been sent to the hospital. Let's see what she'll say."

Hearing that, Summer sneered. "Not like it's hard to guess. She's trying to frame you and sow discord between you and Alaric. When they ask her about it, she'll anxiously say that she fell over accidentally. She'll also tell Alaric not to blame you because it was her fault for losing her balance. Let's make a bet."

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Chapter 90 How Are You Going to Explain it?

Victoria pressed her lips together and remained silent.

"I've seen many b*tches like her. She'll pretend to put in a good word for you, but everything she says will imply that you're the culprit. Don't you see her motive? If she didn't want to frame you, why did she even approach you suddenly?"

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Victoria stayed silent.

Realizing that she hadn't responded, Summer sighed.

"I know you're biased toward her because she had helped you before, so your opinions are affected by that. But you should think about this for a moment. She might have the motives to set you up. Sure, she had helped you before, and you should repay her someday, but it doesn't have to be now. Honestly, just because she had helped you once doesn't mean she won't harm you now."

"Yeah, I get it." Victoria nodded.

Summer noticed that Victoria was feeling down. Thus, she suggested,

"Why don't you come to my place later? I can keep you company. We can chat throughout the night, and I can take the day off tomorrow."

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

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"It's alright." Victoria shook her head. "Grandma is still at home. I have to go back."

Besides, the incident tonight had woken her up. When she initially heard Norwood's words, she still held onto a sliver of hope that the situation was not as bad as it made it out to be, but now even that hope had been destroyed.

Whose fault was it?

She could only blame herself for pathetically clinging onto some hope that couldn't possibly exist.

"Alright. In that case, you should hurry back and stop sitting at the hotel's entrance. The wind is so strong tonight. Even I can feel my eardrums reverberating from the howling sound of the wind. Don't you feel cold at

all?"

Victoria couldn't help but smile at her friend's care and consideration and
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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

said quietly, "Okay, I got it. I'm heading back now."

Noticing that Victoria's voice had returned to normal, Summer sighed in relief. "Good. Hurry back home, and remember to tell me when you've arrived."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Victoria wasn't in a hurry to leave, however.

She closed her eyes as she felt the cold breeze tonight.

The weather was getting cold.

When she saw the weather forecast yesterday, it mentioned that the temperature would drop significantly lower tonight. There would be a sudden influx of cold air, so people were advised to keep themselves warm.

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Chapter 91 Does It Hum?

When Victoria went out tonight, she hadn't felt the coldness in the air.

However, she could now feel the cold.

Victoria sniffled. It's so cold tonight, she thought.

While spacing out, she felt a presence beside her.

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Just then, a warm coat covered her body, and she could smell the sharp scent of tobacco lingering in the air.

She opened her eyes.

"Does it hurt?"

Bane's voice rang out next to her. He reached out, trying to touch the wound on her cheek, but his fingertips had just grazed her skin when she instinctively dodged to the side, avoiding his touch.

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

His fingers froze in the air.

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Victoria had sustained the injury from when Elaine gripped her hair.

Elaine's fingernails had scratched her skin, leaving a long bloody line, across her cheek. If one hadn't looked closely, they would've missed the mark since her hair was a mess and had covered the wound.

Now that she had tucked her hair behind her ears, the wound was

exposed for everyone to see.

Perhaps, because the wind was so strong that it was already hurting her face, Victoria didn't feel any pain from the wound. It was only when Bane mentioned it that she realized there was a wound on her face.

"I'm fine."

Bane withdrew his hand before looking at her in slight exasperation.

"Why didn't you explain yourself?"

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

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"What's the point?" Victoria's expression was cold. "He loves her so much. If I said she fell on her own, would he believe me?"

When Bane heard that, he couldn't help but chuckle as he said, "True. He has always prioritized Claudia since he was young. You're right not to explain anything."

With that, he couldn't help but caress her on the back of her head. "Let's go. You haven't eaten much for dinner, so I'll treat you to supper."

Victoria noticed that Bane had changed quite a bit from his younger days. He was no longer so sharp-tongued when he spoke.

"Claudia has someone to pamper her, and you have me. Don't forget; we grew up together, too."

Victoria did grow up with Bane, but they only got to know each other a little later. When she first met him, she and Alaric were already long-time friends, and she had also liked Alaric quite a bit.

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Chapter 91 Does It Hunt?

So, any men who came after Alaric were just friends to her.

"What are you zoning out for?" Bane urged, "Get up. Don't you feel cold sitting here?"

It was only then that Victoria came to her senses. She pursed her lips before saying, "Forget about supper; I'm not hungry. Besides-

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"Don't you think I'm so pitiful now that the welcoming party turned out like this? Can't you make it up to me with supper?"

When Bane put it like that, Victoria did feel a little sorry for him.

Tonight was supposed to be a celebration of his return, but because of the incident between her and Claudia, the party ended on a sour note.

Even though she wasn't the one who caused the trouble, she still bore some responsibility.

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

After thinking about it, Victoria finally nodded. "Alright."

Bane curved his lips into a smile. "What would you like to eat?"

The two had arrived at a food store specializing in making seafood congee 20 minutes later.

There weren't many people out for supper at this hour, so the store was quite empty. Victoria picked a table by the window and sat down. When she turned around, she saw Bane had remained standing, looking a little lost.

It was only then that Victoria remembered something. She said, "I forgot you've been staying abroad all this while. Are you unaccustomed to food like this? Why don't we get something you want to eat?"

When Bane heard that, he returned to his senses and smiled as he pushed his glasses.

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Chapter 91 Does Hurt?

"No, it's just that I'm so used to food in foreign countries that when I see local food all of a sudden, I feel very warm inside."

As he spoke, Bane pulled out a chair opposite Victoria and sat down.

Victoria didn't know if he meant it, but his answer was decent and gentlemanly.

When the two sat down, the waiter came over to take their orders.

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Victoria wanted to get seafood congee at first, but when she saw the picture on the menu, she feared she might throw up when she caught a whiff of the fishy smell of the congee later, so she ordered corn vegetable congee instead.

After taking their orders, the waiter left.

Bane took out some tissues and wiped the cutlery clean before passing it to her. Then, he asked naturally, "Why do you like congee so much?"

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

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When Victoria heard that, she froze momentarily before looking up at him.

As if remembering something, she asked, "Was that car yours?"

Bane nodded, smiling. "Yes, it was me."

Victoria realized then that when she went downstairs to buy congee that day, he was the one watching her. No wonder she felt like she was being watched.

"I thought it was an illusion."

Bane smiled. "What illusion? If you can sense it, then it's essentially real."

Victoria froze at his words. Then, she looked at Bane in suspicion as she felt like he was referring to something else.

After thinking about it, she changed the subject.

"Where's your car? Also, why didn't you get out of the car? Why did you just

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sit in the car and stare at me? It's really scary, you know."

"I probably wanted to give you a surprise." Bane sighed, still smiling. "I heard you're working at Cadogan Group, so I came over as soon as I got off the plane. I wanted to test my luck during after-work hours to see if I could run into you."

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After saying that, he paused for a bit and curved his lips. "And I was in luck. You really did go downstairs. It has been five years, Ms. Snowball. It's no easy feat to see you. But fortunately, I'll be living here from now on, so I can see you every day."

When Victoria heard that, she couldn't help but look up again. She coincidentally caught sight of the gray tie clip he was wearing. The tie clip was a gift to him from Victoria herself.

More precisely, the man had pestered her to buy it for him back then.

Under the excuse that it was a birthday present for him. It was his birthday

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Chapter 91 Does It Hurt?

that day, so Victoria couldn't decline.

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However, she hadn't expected him to be wearing the tie clip even after so many years.

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Chapter 92

At that thought, Victoria averted her gaze to avoid making eye contact with Bane as she calmly said, "So, you've decided to stay and develop your career here for the long term?"

"Yes, I'll probably be on track after two weeks."

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Just then, Victoria said, "Then, I wish you a smooth-sailing journey in advance. I might be swamped with work later on, so I probably won't have extra time for gatherings."

When Bane heard that, he could pick up hints of avoidance and rejection in her words.

However, he wasn't the impulsive youngster he used to be. He was now a grown man, so he knew he shouldn't rush things.

After so many years, he had already made ample preparations for a long
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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

battle. So, of course, he wouldn't rush things, much less back down because of her indirect rejection.

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"It's okay. We can meet up when you're free. I'll be happy as long as your don't forget about this old friend of yours simply because too much time has passed."

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Victoria was a little confused by his reply.

Did I misunderstand something here?

Soon, she came up with an explanation.

In Bane's five years overseas, he probably got himself a girlfriend there. As for why he was still wearing that tie clip, it was perhaps because it was a gift from an old friend. It should be normal to hold onto things of sentimental value.

Victoria had been the same, too. She still kept the gifts her friends gave

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't Yo

You Wait for Me?

her in the past, but was it because her friends were special to her? No, it was because the memories themselves were precious to her.

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After thinking things through, she relaxed considerably and let down her guard around Bane.

"Well, okay."

The two ate supper. Victoria didn't have much of an appetite, and she thought that the vegetable congee was lacking in flavor, so she ate very little. As for Bane, he didn't eat much of the food he ordered, either.

Probably because he had just returned from overseas and couldn't get used to having local food yet.

When it was time to pay the bill, Victoria scanned the code first.

Bane watched her from the side, smiling a little exasperatedly. "Is this compensation for wrecking the welcoming party?"

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

"Yes. I ruined your welcoming party, so this is my treat."

After staying silent for a while, the man said, "If we calculate the costs, I think I'm the one who suffered losses."

When the two left the store, Victoria couldn't help chuckling as she said,

"Yes, indeed. I'll treat you to a grand meal next time."

"Alright, I'll take note of that. Remember your promise."

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When they got into the car, Victoria was reminded of the incident back at the company, so she asked, "I think you were driving a different car when you went to the company yesterday, right?"

"Yes." Bane nodded. He was opening the door to the passenger seat for her. "That was my relative's car."

Victoria thanked him before getting into the car.

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

It would take around 30 minutes to reach home. Victoria initially thought they probably wouldn't have much to talk about, but Bane was more talkative than he used to.

"How's Mr. Selwyn now? I heard that he went overseas to expand his business."

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"Yes, Dad said that his field was doing better overseas, so he wanted to give it a shot."

"It was quite late by the time I learned the news about your family, or I wouldn't have ignored it back then. I'm sorry."

Victoria was quite surprised to hear him apologize. Truthfully, it was fine, even if he didn't help.

"It's okay. Everything was resolved in the end, anyway."

Still feeling guilty, Bane sighed and said, "It's not okay for me. My friend 0:

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

needed help, but I never heard a word of it and couldn't even contribute anything."

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In reality, even though he had gone overseas back then, he knew everything about Victoria's family. He even knew about the slightest detail of what she had been doing. This was because he had left an informant here, who would notify him as soon as something happened to Victoria.

However, by the time he heard about the Selwyns' bankruptcy, Alaric had already settled everything for Victoria.

This was because Bane's so-called good sister claimed that this incident might affect his studies, so she forbade his informant from telling him.

Later on, he noticed that something was off and inquired about it, and it was only then he learned about this huge news.

To begin with, Victoria already had feelings for Alaric, so Bane was at a disadvantage in winning over her heart.

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

He never thought he was still a step too slow when it came to helping Victoria.

"Anyway, if you need help in the future, just tell me."

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This time, he wouldn't act like how he used to. He wouldn't let go anymore.

The car steadily pulled up at the entrance of the villa. Victoria unbuckled the seatbelt and said, "Thanks for sending me home. I'm getting out now.

Take care on the road."

Bane nodded at her. "Alright. Rest early."

Then, he watched as Victoria got out and walked up to the main entrance.

She turned around and waved at him, gesturing for him to leave. He smiled as he nodded and watched her enter the house.

As soon as her slender figure disappeared into the house, the smile on Bane's lips vanished as well.

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

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Just then, his phone rang. He glanced at it and realized it was a phone call from his so-called sister. He sneered, ignoring the phone call as he drove away.

When Victoria returned, she realized that Griselda had already gone to bed.

Perhaps because Victoria had gone out with Alaric that night, thus Griselda wasn't worried in the least and went to bed early.

Victoria let out a sigh of relief. She was wondering how she should explain to Griselda about her returning alone, so it was a good thing that the old lady was already asleep.

"How is Grandma doing recently?"

After chatting with the housekeeper for a bit, Victoria prepared to go

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't

upstairs.

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However, when she was about to ascend the stairs, she noticed Alaric standing at the stairway, crossing his arms as he looked at her with a cold gaze.

Victoria froze, shock flashing across her eyes.

Why is he here? Isn't he supposed to be at the hospital with Claudia?

Alaric lowered his gaze, his aura as chilly as the snow in winter. "Where did you go? Why didn't you answer my calls?"

"You called me?"

Victoria took her phone out of her bag and pressed it a few times, but nothing happened. She could only shrug as she said, "The battery ran out." She had just finished speaking when Alaric grabbed her phone to examine

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it. This action brought a self-mocking smile to her lips.

He doesn't trust me. He didn't even believe me when I said my phone ran out of battery. Is it even necessary for me to explain anything else?

After confirming that her phone had indeed run out of battery and that she wasn't ignoring his calls on purpose, Alaric finally looked a little better. However, he didn't return her phone to her. He just raised his gaze and locked his eyes on her.

"Where did you go? Why didn't you wait for me?"

After settling matters with Claudia, he went back to look for Victoria only to find out she was already gone. He thought she had gone home, but then he discovered she wasn't home either.

In contrast to Alaric, Victoria looked much calmer.

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Chapter 92 Why Didn't You Wait for Me?

"Oh, I thought you would be taking care of Claudia at the hospital."

At the sudden mention of Claudia's name, ari unnatural look flashed across Alaric's face as he responded, "My assistant is there."

"I see." Victoria then nodded. "Good to know. I'm going upstairs now."

With that, she was about to walk past Alaric and go upstairs when he

grabbed her wrist.

The man frowned. "Don't you have anything to explain?"

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Alaric had meant to say he had caught sight of her returning in Bane's car. However, he chose not to voice it out at the last moment, thinking Victoria would try to explain herself.

Bane had dropped her off at the main entrance, after all.

However, when Victoria heard his question, she thought he was referring to Claudia's injury.

She was sure she didn't push Claudia, but would he believe her if she said that?

He would only believe Claudia, wouldn't he?

At that thought, Victoria looked at him and asked, "What did she tell you?"

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Chapter 93 Reckless Words

"Sorry?"

Alaric couldn't understand it for a moment, as he was still focusing on the fact that Bane had sent her home just now.

After a moment, Alaric finally realized what she was asking about.

"You mean Claudia?"

The tone he uses when calling her name sure is friendly, Victoria thought bitterly.

She faked a smile. "Yes. Wasn't she hurt? Would you believe me if I said she fell on her own?"

After saying that, she put on a calm expression, seemingly not expecting any response from him.

Her pretty eyes seemed to hide some degree of mockery.

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She looked like she was saying, 'Even if I explain, I know you won't believe me at all, and I don't care whether you believe me or not.'

Her behavior caused Alaric to deepen his frown. She truly has changed a lot. Just as expected.

Victoria raised an eyebrow. "Forget it if you don't believe me. I'm just saying."

After staying silent for a while, the man said, "I knew that."

She was confused.

Alaric looked straight at her with deep, dark eyes as he said, "Her friend was causing you trouble, and she couldn't stop it. She didn't want to lose her pride, so..."

When Victoria heard that, emotions broke through her calm composure.

She raised her head and looked at him in disbelief.

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Chapter 93 Reckless Words

It wasn't until she spoke that she realized her voice was shaking. "So, your
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knew that she fell on her own, but you'd still clear her name and make me
the culprit, is that it?"

How pathetic.

Having been married to him for so long, Victoria had never felt as pathetic
as she was right now. She felt like a clown.

So, even if she didn't do those things, as long as someone else needed a
scapegoat, she would have to be one for them.

What made it even more pathetic was that she had actually taken
Norwood's advice and tried to look at things with her heart.

In Alaric's eyes, she must have been a bona fide idiot.

Somehow, Alaric felt slightly disturbed when he saw Victoria looking upset.

Chapter 93 Reckless Words

He felt an emptiness in his heart. He felt as if he was about to lose
something. Under her despairing gaze, he gripped her hand tightly.

"She was quite seriously injured, and the doctor said it might leave scars,
so I was just comforting her."

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"Seriously injured? Scars?" Perhaps enraged by Alaric, Victoria failed to be
mindful of her words. "Even if she died, what does that have to do with me,
Alaric?!"

With that, she flung his hand away and glared at him.

"If you want to comfort her, go to the hospital. Get out of my sight, and
don't try to accuse me of anything."

With that, she decided not to waste more time on him and quickly went
upstairs.

Alaric stood where he was. Her words had made his veins pulsate

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Chapter 93 Reckless Words

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violently, and he didn't think much as he turned around and went after her.
After getting upstairs, Victoria entered the bathroom. She wanted to wash
her face and calm down.

However, she had just taken a step into the bathroom when Alaric came
in as well.

When she caught a whiff of the mixed scents coming from him and
remembered what he had just said, she was livid as she turned to glare at
him.

"Get out."

The man, however, walked up to her and said calmly, "Calm down. I can
explain."

"Explain?" Victoria sneered. "Making excuses, more like. I don't want to hear
any of it. Get out right now. I want to shower!"

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Chapter 93 Reckless Words

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"I know you've been wrongly accused of what happened tonight. I promise you, I'll-"

"Are you getting out or not?"

She grabbed a bottle of body wash and threw it at him.

"Get lost!"

Alaric was still trying to explain, but now he was stunned.

Victoria had never spoken so harshly to him before.

He stood where he was, staring at her with a dark look. His lips were drawn into a stern line, betraying his emotions.

Victoria stood where she was, looking coldly at him. Her expression told him that she didn't want to see him again.

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After a moment of silence, he finally turned around and walked out with a foul expression.

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After he left, Victoria felt like all the energy had left her body, and she almost crashed to the floor. She reached for the wall to steady herself, before leaning against it and slowly sliding onto the floor. She then closed her eyes.

After the burst of rage just now, she probably got too worked up by Alaric's words, hence the dizziness and nauseous she was feeling at the moment.

Nauseous?

Victoria suddenly opened her eyes as if she had just remembered something. Oh, no. My emotions are so unstable. Will it affect the baby in my tummy?

She had also noticed that she was losing control of her temper more often these days.

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Chapter 93 Reckless Words

She always told herself to remain calm, yet she still failed in the end. She didn't know what was wrong with her.

Victoria reached out and caressed her tummy. "My baby, did I startle you just now? It's okay; I will keep my emotions in check next time."

However, she still found the dizziness unbearable, probably because she was too agitated.

The bathroom floor was too cold, so Victoria could only endure the dizziness as she got up while leaning against the wall for support. She walked to the couch outside and sat down, and when she was feeling better after some rest, she finally got up and walked into the bathroom to wash up.

After washing up, she looked at herself in the mirror. She noticed her eyes were bloodshot and knew that she had been too aggravated today. I

mustn't let my emotions run wild again.

Stuck on a level? Play Now

9/12

Chapter 93 Reckless Words

She quickly composed herself before heading to bed.

—

At the hospital.

“Claudia, stop crying. You will become blind if you keep crying.”

Ever since the doctor said that she would have to get stitches on her forehead and that it would leave scars, Claudia lost control of her emotions and kept sobbing.

She buried her face in her arms, regret filling her eyes. If she had known that it would leave scars, she wouldn't have done something like that.

She was only planning to take a light fall, but she had miscalculated. She didn't know the stairs were right beside her, so when she fell, she hit her forehead against the steps.

Can You have boosters! Play Now

10/12

Chapter 93 Reckless Words

11/12

At that moment, searing pain spread across her forehead. It hurt so much that Claudia curled up her body and almost fainted.

And when she saw blood, Claudia finally realized what had happened.

Now, she pinned all her hatred onto Victoria. If it weren't for Victoria, she wouldn't have done something like that.

If it weren't for Victoria, her forehead wouldn't be injured.

When Claudia imagined an ugly scar appearing on her clean and pretty forehead, she couldn't bear it anymore. She was so furious that she grabbed an item on the table and smashed it onto the floor.

The people who were comforting her at the side were taken by surprise.

“Ah!

“Claudia!”

Cary

Chapter 93 Reckless Words

When they realized what was going on, they rushed forward to pin her down.

“Calm down, or your wounds might open up again.”

Of course, Claudia wouldn't listen. Alaric wasn't here, anyway. So, what better time than the present for her to vent?

12/12

At the thought of Alaric, Claudia got even more enraged. The man had left her as soon as he sent her to the hospital, even after knowing she had sustained such a serious injury.

As for where he had gone, she didn't even have to guess!

Of course, he had gone to Victoria!

Candy

Chapter 94

The more Claudia thought about it, the more hatred she felt. Despite everyone's efforts to stop her, she continued her rampage.

Peter, who was summoned here by a call from Alaric outside of working hours, was standing at the entrance at that moment. He quietly watched the person inside fuming and throwing things.

1/1

He leaned against the wall with his arms crossed. When he saw the scene, he could only secretly shake his head in exasperation.

Just as expected, Claudia is simply faking her gentleness.

Still, Claudia's forehead was seriously injured, and the doctor even said it might leave scars, so Peter pitied her quite a bit.

After all, getting disfigured would be a huge hit to a woman.

You have boosters!

Play Now

Chapter 94 Get Lost

However, when he remembered that Victoria was pregnant, his pity for Claudia vanished in an instant.

Claudia's accomplices kept telling Alaric that Victoria had pushed Claudia which was why Claudia fell and hurt herself.

Peter was fuming inside just from listening in. Victoria had prepared to shoulder the burdens of pregnancy alone, so how could she possibly push someone down the stairs?

Even if she did, she must have a good reason for it.

Peter had always favored Victoria, so he didn't particularly like Claudia and her friends.

As he was pondering, one of Claudia's friends suddenly turned around and glared at him.

"Hey, you, where's your boss? Hurry up and call Mr. Cadogan.

Ca Stuck on a level? Play Now

Chapter 94 Get Lost

The tone and way of referring to him made Peter frown unhappily.

3/11

"What are you zoning out for? Mr. Cadogan told you to come so that you can help out, but look at you! After coming here, you did nothing but stand there. Are you a piece of wood?"

wwwww

The person speaking was none other than the bad-tempered Elaine.

She had been mad because Alaric had chased her out of the room, but now that Claudia had gotten seriously injured, she had forgotten all her problems.

Compared to the injury on Claudia's face, her problems were trivial matters.

When Peter heard Elaine's words, his expression grew darker.

"What did you say?"

Cag Stuck on a level? Play Now

Chapter 94 Get Lost

“Was I wrong? Should I repeat what I said?”

Peter sneered. He was already disgusted with this group of women, so now that things had come to this, he had no reason to stay anymore. With that thought in mind, he swiftly turned around and walked away with a cold look in his eyes.

“Hey, where are you going? Stop right there! I said stop! I’m speaking to you!”

4/11

However, no matter how loudly Elaine shouted, Peter simply walked ahead and left as if he hadn’t heard her.

When he was gone, Elaine complained in disbelief, “What is wrong with that guy? Mr. Cadogan asked him to come here and help, but what did he do? He just stood there, and now he upped and left! Claudia, do you think Alaric had been seduced by that b*tch? Even his subordinate is treating you like that.”

You have boosters! Play New

Chapter 94 Get Lost

5/11

Claudia, who was still fuming moments ago, instantly calmed down when she heard those words. She turned to look at Elaine.

“What did you say?”

Her eyes were still red and puffy from all the bawling, and Elaine was startled by the look in her eyes.

After a long while, Elaine finally responded, “Was I wrong? I told that guy to call Alaric, but he ignored me and just walked away.”

When Claudia heard that, she finally remembered that Alaric had told Peter to come before he left.

However, because Alaric wasn’t around, she didn’t pay half a mind to that man and ended up forgetting about his presence. That was why she threw a tantrum just now.

Now that Elaine had reminded her about him, Claudia finally realized the

Can You have boosters! Play Now

17:03 Wed, 21 Ju

Chapter 94 Get Lost

6/11

blunder she had just made. Alaric’s assistant had even turned around and left. Would he talk bad about me to Alaric?

When Claudia thought of that, her expression shifted.

“Where is he? Quick! Hold him back!”

Claudia glared at Elaine, upset. “Why would you talk to him like that? Since Alaric had called him over, he was definitely on Alaric’s side. If you treat him so rudely, what should I do if he talks bad about me in front of Alaric?”

Elaine was stunned, for she didn’t expect Claudia to reprimand her. “1-1 just wanted him to call Alaric since you were sobbing so sadly. You seemed to have lost control of your emotions and all that.”

Claudia, however, couldn’t care less about Elaine’s explanations. The current developments weren’t in her favor, so she had planned to get hurt

a little so that Alaric would focus all his attention on her.

Can You have boosters! Play Now

Chapter 94 Got Lost

However, she hadn't expected the supposed tiny injury to turn into a serious one. She really had done it this time.

However, that was beside the problem. The main issue was that despite her severe injury, Alaric had left her at times like this.

This was the thing Claudia was the most worried about.

It wouldn't do if she was disfigured and Alaric didn't want her anymore.

7/11

Claudia was panicking. She couldn't care about anything else as she ordered, "No matter what you have to do, call him back. Compensate him. and apologize to him if you have to."

Everyone was still rooted to the spot, so Claudia spoke even more sternly, "Get going!"

It was only then that the others came to their senses. Then, they turned around and went out of the ward.

Candy

You have boosters! Play Now

Chapter 94 Get Lost

Peter was about to leave, but when he went downstairs, he bumped into Alaric, who had returned.

He wasn't in a good mood, but he walked up to Alaric and greeted the latter anyway.

"Mr. Cadogan."

B/11

Noticing his ashen face and the moody tone in his greeting, Alaric frowned lightly. "Where are you going? Didn't I ask you to keep watch?"

When Peter heard that, he was instantly worked up.

"Yes, you asked me to keep watch, but apparently, they don't need me keeping watch, so I came down."

Alaric fell silent.

He narrowed his eyes as he examined Peter. He was acting weird these

Chapter 94 Get Lost

days, for he would never react like that with similar incidents in the past.

Peter would always speak to him with caution, but for the past few days, 9/11

Peter had been quite impulsive with his speech and would always stare at Alaric with a weird look.

This wasn't the behavior expected of a proper assistant.

At that thought, Alaric spoke with an icy tone, his gaze turning cold. "I told you to keep watch. Have I allowed you to leave?"

The coldness in Alaric's voice sent shivers down Peter's spine, and Peter flinched a little. He feared that Alaric would get mad and take it out on him.

However, despite subconsciously reacting like that, Peter was still defiant.

"You didn't ask me to leave, but those women did. They don't need me."

“So, they are the ones paying your salary?”

www

Cap! You have boosters! Play Now

boosters!Play

Chapter 94 Get Lost

10/11

At the mention of salaries, Peter stopped speaking, feeling a little timid for some reason.

Alaric stared at him unhappily. “What is wrong with you these days?”

Peter shook his head. “What do you mean, Mr. Cadogan? What can be wrong with me?”

As soon as he said that, he complained in silence, That’s because you’re a jerk. Your wife is pregnant, but you didn’t even protect her, and you even come all the way to the hospital to take care of another woman. Hah.

However, unbeknownst to Peter, his expression had betrayed his thoughts.

Alaric was speechless.

He never got an answer to these questions, but Peter always reacted like that.

Cugh! You have boosters! Play Now

Chapter 94 Get Lost

Alaric’s expression darkened as he scoffed. “If you don’t want to do it, get lost. I don’t want to see you hanging around and giving me that look.”

You have boosters! Play Now

Chapter 95

With that, Alaric walked up the hospital stairs with heavy and steady footsteps.

Claudia’s friends, who had listened to her and were coming downstairs to look for Peter, stopped in their tracks when they saw Alaric had returned.

“Mr. Cadogan, C-Claudia-

However, before they could finish speaking, Alaric didn’t even spare them a glance as he walked past them.

At that moment, he was in the worst of moods because of his argument with Victoria, and he had a foul expression on his face.

1/10

The few women could clearly feel the chill emanating from him. They were frozen on the spot, and none of them dared to step forward to stop him or say anything.

Cap! You have boosters! Play Now

Chapter 95 What’s With Your Injury?

However, Alaric seemed to have noticed something. He paused in his tracks and turned to look at one of the women.

“You, why are you still here?”

Elaine was standing with the others, but she suddenly felt a cold gaze falling upon her. She looked up to meet Alaric’s fierce gaze, and she was so terrified that she felt her scalp turning numb. She didn’t know how to explain herself.

“Al!”

Right at that moment, Claudia’s voice rang out nearby.

2/10

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice to see Claudia running bare-footed over to them with a panicked expression. Even though she was quite far away, the blood seeping into the gauze on her forehead was a startling contrast to her pale face.

Can You have boosters! Play Now

17:03 Wed, 21

Chapter 95 What’s With Your Injury?

“Claudia, why are you here? The doctor said you shouldn’t move around.”

Claudia’s friends ran up to her when they saw her, but only Elaine stood right where she was as if her feet were rooted to the ground.

Alaric’s gaze was cold, and it only warmed up slightly when he saw

Claudia running up to him with traces of blood on her forehead.

“Why did you get out of bed?”

Claudia glanced at Elaine, giving her a look, and sounded a little flustered as she said, “They seemed to have gotten into a conflict with Mr. Levane just now. I heard that Mr. Levane left angrily, so I wanted to come down to have a look and apologize to him on everyone’s behalf.”

Meanwhile, when Elaine received Claudia’s look, she hastily fled.

After Elaine left, Claudia smiled bitterly and said, “I’m so sorry, Al. You left your assistant with me to help out, but my friends treated him like that. It’s

You have boosters! Play Now

3/10

Chapter 95 What’s With Your Injury?

my fault.”

Alaric looked quietly at her, not saying anything.

He had always been a cold person, so when he was looking at someone without saying a word, it would make that person feel like they were trapped in ice.

This time was no exception. After Claudia apologized and explained everything, Alaric simply looked at her silently.

His gaze seemed to pierce through her soul. It was as if he knew she was faking it.

How can that be? Could it be that Victoria had told him something?

When Claudia thought of that, transparent tears formed in her eyes. As her long, curly eyelashes quivered, the tears rolled down her cheeks as she lightly held onto the hem of Alaric’s shirt, saying pitifully, “Al, are you

You have boosters! Play Now

ww

Chapter 95 What’s With Your Injury?

staying quiet because you’re mad at me? You were disappointed in me

5/10

because I didn’t stop Elaine in time back in the private room, right? But Al, it wasn’t that I didn’t want to stop her; I just didn’t know that Elaine would say those things. I’m really sorry, so please don’t be mad at me, okay?”

Out of the corner of his eye, Alaric glanced at her fingers, which were holding onto him. Then, he looked at her pitiful sobbing figure. His heart should be aching for her when he saw her crying like that, but for some reason, another face appeared in his mind.

The face was completely different from that of the person standing in front of him. The countenance was exquisite and well-defined, especially those cold eyes.

When she wanted to cry, her tears would well up in her eyes, but never once did they fall. In the end, those eyes would turn red from holding back the tears, and she would stubbornly turn her back to him and hide all her tears from him.

Can You have boosters! Play Now
Chapter 95 What's With Your Injury?

Alaric was suddenly in a daze.

6/10

He still remembered her wailing in front of him when they were young, her face covered in tears and snot. She even held lightly onto the hem of his shirt, like what Claudia was doing right now, looking pitifully at him as she sniffled, her eyes red.

When did it start?

Since when had she stopped crying in front of him and hid all her tears? Alaric finally understood why he felt so empty inside. It was because a gap had formed between Victoria and him now.

She no longer treated him as someone she was close to. Someone she could freely share her emotions with.

"Al... Are you mad at me?"

Candy!

You have boosters! Play Now

at's With Your Injury?

Chapter 95 What's

Claudia's soft voice pulled him out of his thoughts.

7/10

Alaric returned to his senses. When he saw the teary-eyed Claudia before him, he pursed his lips and asked, "What was going on tonight?"

When Claudia heard that, she was stunned.

"What?"

Alaric moved his gaze upward and asked curtly, "What is going on with your injury?"

My injury?

Claudia was a little shocked. Why would Alaric suddenly ask me that?

Didn't my friends tell him that Victoria had pushed me?

She realized that she couldn't quite grasp Alaric's thoughts at the moment.

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Chapter 95 What's With Your Injury?

However, he seemed to be in a worse mood after he came back, and

Claudia had to keep up her nice impression, so she could only say tentatively, "Don't blame Victoria for what happened tonight."

"Hmm?"

ww

"Even though it might leave scars, I have no choice but to accept it. If only I had maintained my balance, I wouldn't have tripped."

Alaric lowered his gaze at her, a dark look shrouding his eyes.

For some reason, Claudia felt terrified when he stared at her like that. "Al?"

"So, you're trying to say that she pushed you?"

Claudia fell silent.

Perhaps because she didn't expect Alaric to get to the bottom of this, she didn't know how to respond to his question.

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Chapter 95 What's With Your Injury?

From the side, Claudia's friend walked up and replied in her stead, "Mr. Cadogan, Victoria was the one who pushed her. Otherwise, Claudia wouldn't be hurt so badly."

When Alaric heard that, he narrowed his eyes and looked dangerously at the person.

"Did you see it?"

The woman was instantly stunned when his cold gaze fell upon her. "I—" Alaric said mockingly, "Did you see it with your own eyes?"

The woman briefly glanced at Claudia and didn't dare speak another word.

Things were in such a mess back then, so no one saw it with their own eyes. She was merely taking Claudia's side.

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Chapter 95 What's With Your Injury?

With Alaric behaving like that, no one dared speak up again.

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Even Claudia was stunned. She thought Alaric would take her side on this, but she didn't expect him to be so serious about it.

Is he suspecting me? Or does he simply not want Victoria to be wrongly accused?

At that thought, Claudia gulped and bit her lower lip as she said slowly, "Al, don't blame Victoria for this. To be honest, I was the one to blame. I should've been more careful and watched my footing."

When Alaric heard that, he finally looked back at her. He pursed his lips before humming in acknowledgment.

“Since you know you weren’t being careful, just watch out next time.”

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Chapter 96

The color on Claudia’s face gradually faded.

Claudia never expected that Alaric would say such a thing. What did he mean by saying that if I knew I was being careless, I should be more careful next time? Did he think that it was my fault for falling like this today and had nothing to do with Victoria? And is he not going to hold her accountable for this? No, I shouldn’t be thinking about these things right now. What I should be thinking about now is why Alaric suddenly changed his mind after going out and coming back. Victoria must have said something to him. Could it be that....

At the thought of something, she didn’t feel too good about the entire situation.

In that instant, she disregarded everything else and threw herself into Alaric’s arms, sobbing like an innocent child. “I’m sorry. I will keep the words you said in mind. My wound just hurts so much, and the doctor told me it

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Chapter 96 I’m Here

would leave a scar, so I was in a really bad mood. Where did you go just now, Al? Did you hear that it will leave a scar on my forehead and that you think I’m ugly, so you don’t want me anymore?”

The warmth in his arms made him even more agitated. He furrowed his brows and instinctively wanted to push her away.

However, Claudia hugged him even tighter and asked while sobbing, “Do you know why I was willing to risk my life to save you when we were young?”

His movements came to a halt. Childhood memories always had a way of touching his soft spot.

With tears in her eyes, she buried her face in his chest and hugged his thin waist tightly. “Because I can’t lose you, Al. Can you please don’t leave me?”

At this moment, Alaric lowered his gaze and looked at her. He remembered how she had dived into the river to save him when he was

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Chapter 96 I’m Here

struggling and on the verge of death. That was not what an ordinary

3/8

person could do. She must have valued me very much to be able to do so. Gradually, he relented, and the fact that she had saved his life made him feel indebted to her. At this thought, he gently patted her shoulder and answered in a soft tone, "Don't think too much. Let me take you back to rest."

Claudia felt relieved when she noticed his tone had softened. As expected, mentioning the incident is useful. Luckily, I still have this as leverage. It seems that Victoria is not completely useless after all.

If it weren't for Victoria saving Alaric back then, he might have already drowned because she wouldn't have saved him. By the time she found someone to help, it would also be too late. However, because Victoria had saved him, not only did he survive, but she also gained the title of a life-saving hero.

That was killing two birds with one stone, Claudia thought as she smirked

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Chapter 96 I'm Here

in secret.

Back in the ward, the doctor came to re-treat her wound and gave her some instructions. At the thought of having a scar on her forehead, she felt distressed. "Doctor, will it really leave a scar?"

The middle-aged male doctor sighed when he saw her pitiful look. "The wound is quite large, so it's not very likely to avoid scarring. If you mind, we can look into treatments after the wound heals. Otherwise, you can have bangs to cover it up."

4/8

Claudia already had bangs because her forehead wasn't beautiful, so she could only style her hair with bangs to cover it up and enhance her forehead and overall appearance. Even if she had a scar in the future, her bangs could still cover it up. However, this did not mean that she could accept the scar.

So, after the doctor left, she started crying again in front of Alaric. "Al, I'm so

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Chapter 96 I'm Here

upset at the thought of having a scar. Will I become ugly? Will you dislike me and not want me anymore?"

5/8

His thin lips moved, but he couldn't say the words he should have. In the end, he could only say, "Rest well and let your wound heal first."

Not hearing the reassurance she wanted, she felt disappointed. Even before she lay down, she thought, could Alaric have fallen for Victoria in the past two years? No way. He's the man I have my eyes on, and I will never hand him over to anyone else. I have to make good use of my life-saving hero title and make sure Alaric focuses his attention solely on me.

On the other hand, Victoria woke up feeling dizzy and nauseous. After lying down for a while, she suddenly felt a wave of nausea wash over her. She scrambled to her feet and crawled to the sink, where she spent a long time dry heaving. In the end, she leaned against the bathroom door,

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Chapter 96 Im Here

feeling weak. Why do I suddenly feel so sick? She gently touched her stomach, looking worried. Is there something wrong with the baby?

After resting for a while, she stood up and drank some warm water before calling her bestie, Summer.

When Summer heard about how sick she was, she immediately said, "You should take the day off today. I'll go with you to the hospital."

"Okay. That's my plan too."

After hanging up the phone, Victoria initially considered asking Alaric for a day off but eventually decided against contacting him. Instead, she reached out to Yasmin, explained that she had some urgent matters to attend to, and asked her to inform Alaric when he arrived at the company.

When Yasmin received the message from Victoria, she had just woken up and was still yawning. However, when she saw Victoria's message, she suddenly became energized.

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Chapter 96 I'm Here

After a while, she suddenly realized that Victoria was asking her for the day off instead of Alaric. Why didn't she ask Mr. Cadogan for the day off? Is it because of Claudia? It sure is!

7/8

She angrily clenched her phone and couldn't help but curse, "Mr. Cadogan, you sc*mbag! How dare you bully my Miss Victoria! I'll forgive you!"

ever

On the crowded subway, Summer turned around to look at Victoria with concern.

Meanwhile, Victoria sat there, her puny face adding a touch of fragility to her stunning features, but her pale lips indicated that she had suffered a lot.

Summer had heard of some pregnant women having severe morning sickness and vomiting. Although I've never seen it firsthand, I can imagine. how terrible it must feel to have one's stomach churning like a river. It

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Chapter 96 Im Here

seems like my dear Victoria is going through something similar. I knew she

had morning sickness, but her vomiting was on another level. It's severe enough to make her face turn pale like she's sick. Worried, she held Victoria's hand.

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Victoria opened her eyes and looked at her.

"Don't worry. I'm here," Summer said, squeezing her hand tightly and transferring her warmth to her.

Victoria gave her a faint smile, and then couldn't help but lean toward her. Immediately, Summer adjusted her posture, turning her shoulder to let Victoria lean on it. Just like that, Victoria rested her head on Summer's shoulder, completely relying on her.

"Thank you, Summer." It's honestly nice to have a true friend.

Chapter 97

At the hospital, Summer handled all the hospital registration and payment while Victoria sat in the corner, curled up in discomfort. When Summer was done with everything, she went to check on Victoria and became even more concerned upon seeing her pained expression.

"Are you okay? Why do you look like you're sick instead of just pregnant?" she asked, reaching out to feel her forehead.

Once she confirmed that Victoria didn't have a fever, only then did she breathe a sigh of relief. If she has no fever, the discomfort is likely just from morning sickness and not other issues.

Meanwhile, Victoria subconsciously rubbed her palm and chuckled softly.

"I'm not feeling very sick actually, just sleepy and not wanting to eat anything when I'm nauseous. I just want to keep eating sweet things."

"Sweet things? Sweets are not good for you, even on normal days, let

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Chapter 97 Karma

alone during pregnancy. Let's ask the doctor later," Summer suggested.

"Okay." Victoria nodded in agreement.

As Summer watched Victoria agree to everything she suggested, she felt that she was so obedient that she was almost too cute, like time had turned back to when they were young. Although she found Victoria adorable, she also felt sorry for **her**. She could sense the loneliness behind her pretend happiness and the distress behind her obedience. She must have kept these feelings buried deep in her heart. Alaric should be by her side doing all these things with her, but now... he's probably at the hospital with another woman.

2/9

At the thought of this, a lump formed in her throat, and she couldn't help but reach out and rub Victoria's head. "Don't worry. I will always be here for you, no matter what happens. F*ck you, Alaric. You better not regret it later! She cursed Alaric a hundred times in her mind.

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Chapter **97** Karma

The two spent nearly an hour at the hospital for the checkup, and by the time they left, it was already noon. Victoria's complexion looked even worse after she spent the entire morning at the hospital.

As they left the hospital, Summer supported her and let her lean on her body. "Thank goodness you're not sick. Otherwise, I would have been so

worried about you. Let's find a place to eat something first."

"Okay. Let's have some dessert." Victoria looked listless.

Hearing that, Summer was speechless for a while and then said, "We can go, but did you not hear what the doctor said? Even if you like it, you can't eat too much. Otherwise, it may affect some of the indicators later on."

At her reminder, Victoria helplessly hung her gaze. "I know, but I really want to eat."

When Summer saw her like this, she could only sigh inwardly. "Okay. I'll make an exception today and eat with you, but you have to be careful

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Chapter 97 Karma

later on. Obey the doctor's instructions, understand?"

"I know." Her voice was soft, like a child's, which was both adorable and heartwarming.

4/9

However, Summer still pressed her lips tightly together, her gaze filled with worry.

Throughout this period, every time they met, Victoria seemed to be able to control her emotions very well. Yet, Summer knew deep down that some emotions, even if they weren't expressed, didn't mean they didn't exist.

Just like the pain in Victoria's heart, it wouldn't disappear just because she didn't express it.

She knew that those emotions would only pile up somewhere in Victoria's heart and hurt her even more. In the end, it would eventually explode one day. She couldn't predict when that day would come, but as she glanced at Victoria, she guessed that even Victoria didn't know when her emotions

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Chapter 97 Karma

would erupt.

At this point, she only hoped that Victoria could leave this place and leave Alaric before her heart shattered.

So, during their meal, she couldn't hold her curiosity in. "Although I know **it's** not a good time to ask you this now, I still want to ask when is Old Mrs. Cadogan's surgery? She's living at home now instead of the nursing home, right?"

"Yes." Victoria didn't mind Summer asking her. After all, she was her only good friend, and she had nothing to hide from her. "She's staying at home. for care, but the exact time for the surgery hasn't been set. Because Grandma fainted last time, the doctor believes that her mentality needs to be adjusted, so they hope to give her a little more time to avoid causing secondary stress."

Upon hearing this, Summer couldn't help but sigh. "So, this matter will be

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Chapter 97 Karma

delayed?”

“Yes. Grandma’s condition is important, so we have no other choice.”

Summer wasn’t Victoria, so she couldn’t think from her perspective and could only think from her own. This was why Victoria was the only person who mattered to her in this matter.

Just then, she whispered, “I know Old Mrs. Cadogan’s condition is important, but your matter is also important.”

She pursed her lips and finally expressed her concern. “I’m worried that the people *on* Claudia’s side will harm you.”

After all, what happened last night showed that the people on Claudia’s side had great resentment toward Victoria. Come to think of it now. It’s also quite understandable for them to have great resentment toward Victoria. After all, Victoria has been by Alaric’s side for two years, but so what if they have great resentment?

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Chapter 97 Kama

In her eyes, these emotions were simply unreasonable. Victoria isn't the

7/9

mistress here, and Claudia isn't exactly in a relationship with Alaric, so who are they to have resentment toward Victoria? The more she thought about it, the angrier she became, and her eating movements became rough.

Sitting across from her, Victoria noticed her movements and smiled helplessly. "Alright, Summer, I know you care about me, but rest assured, I know what to do."

"Hmph, you know what to do, but that doesn't mean others do. Not everyone has established good values and qualities. Otherwise, such a thing wouldn't have happened last night. Speaking of last night, how is Claudia? She fell so severely. Did she get disfigured?"

When this matter was brought up, Victoria's eyes slightly narrowed, and her tone became lighter. "Not to the extent of getting disfigured, but I heard she was seriously injured, and it might leave a scar."

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17:04 **Wed**, 21

Chapter **97** Kamma

"A scar?" Although Summer knew it was quite immoral, she still couldn't help but laugh. "If she leaves a scar on her face, wouldn't that be hideous?"

Didn't she bring this on herself? She must be regretting it now."

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She originally had a sense of injustice for her bestie, but after hearing that Claudia would be left with a scar, she felt much better. It turns out that karma is real. So what if she tries to shift the blame onto Victoria? She has already ruined her face. No matter how many people she tries to frame, she can never go back to how her face looked.

"But do you think she will hold a grudge against you and continue to frame you

because of this?" She became more and more worried for Victoria as she thought about it. "No, actually, I think she will definitely hold a grudge against you. Even if she doesn't, the people around her might, and what if she tries to use other people to harm you?"

Just thinking about it made her break out in a cold sweat.

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Chapter 97 Karma

Will she hold a grudge against me? After hearing Summer's words, Victoria also fell into deep thought.

Chapter 98

Earlier, Victoria and Claudia had made a verbal agreement because both sides had something to gain. However, based on the current situation, their relationship would deteriorate due to this incident. Regardless of

whether Victoria pushed her or not, Claudia would likely blame her for everything that happened. It seemed impossible to live in peace with each other in the future.

1/10

Most importantly, after this incident, Victoria realized that she needed to be cautious of Claudia. Claudia was far different from what she had imagined. At first, Victoria thought she was just pretending to be a delicate lady, which was no big deal. After all, everyone wanted to maintain a good image in front of others. However, if beneath her guise of delicacy was a malicious heart that plotted to harm others, then it was not a simple matter anymore.

Thinking of this, Victoria said to Summer, "Don't worry. I will protect myself. Besides, she wanted to harm me this time, but she ended up harming KIPS Preparations

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Chapter 98 Thought It Through

herself."

"That's true." Summer nodded. "It's satisfying to see someone's evil plan backfire on them."

"Yeah."

As they talked, a waiter placed a chocolate molten cake on the table. Seeing the second serving of dessert, she was surprised. "Oh my god! When did you sneakily order another one while I wasn't looking? Did you not listen to the doctor's advice, Victoria? You can't eat anymore."

"I know. I'll just have a few more bites."

"No, you just had a giant brownie with ice cream."

"Then just one bite." Victoria tried to bargain.

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Chapter 98 Thought it Through

"No! Absolutely not!"

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After having lunch, the two of them went shopping at the mall and didn't return home until late.

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Victoria had turned on silent mode on her phone all day and only turned it off when she got home. The first thing she saw was several messages from Yasmin about work, so she replied to them one by one before exiting the conversation. Only then did she notice that Alaric had also sent her a few messages on WhatsApp.

The first one read, "Where did you go?"

The second one was sent half an hour later, which was probably because she hadn't replied to the first one, so Alaric called her. 'Why didn't you answer the phone?'

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Chapter 98 Thought It Through

The third one was in the afternoon, when he urged her because he couldn't get in touch with her. 'Are you angry because of Claudia's matter?'

'Answer the phone, Ms. Snowball. I have something to tell you.'

4/10

After that, he didn't send any more messages, probably because he didn't receive a reply from her.

Only after she exited WhatsApp did she realize he had called her 10 times. When she read the messages, she thought that he hadn't called her in the afternoon, but it turned out that there were more than 10 missed calls, with the most recent one being 15 minutes ago. Now, that's unexpected.

As soon as she entered the house, Hector, the butler, hurriedly came over to greet her before she could say anything. "You're finally back, Mrs. Cadogan."

He looked anxious and scrutinized Victoria from head to toe. When he

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Chapter 98 Thought 11. Through

made sure she was safe and sound, even holding a bunch of shopping bags in her hands, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

"What's wrong?" she asked softly.

"Nothing, Mrs. Cadogan." As he said that, he walked up to her to take the bags from her. "Did you go shopping all day today?"

"Yeah. I haven't gone shopping in a long time, so I went around."

5/10

Mainly because she went to the hospital and hadn't been home all day, so if she didn't bring anything home, she would feel guilty and wouldn't be able to come up with an answer when someone asked her what she did while she was out. So, shopping was the best answer, and with so many bags, no one would suspect anything.

"I see. Why didn't you answer the phone, Mrs. Cadogan? Mr. Cadogan has been calling you, and he was worried crazy."

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Chapter 6 Thought Through

Worried crazy? Victoria smiled imperceptibly, and a hint of sarcasm flickered in her eyes. This choice of word. If she didn't know that Hector always spoke positively about Alaric, she would really think that Alaric was worried crazy for her. He probably called from the ward where Claudia

was staying.

"I turned my phone to silent before going to bed last night and forgot to turn it off when I woke up," she explained calmly.

Upon hearing this, Hector had a sudden realization, which showed in his expression.

Seeing that he was about to take the shopping bags from her, she said, "You don't have to take them for me. I'm going upstairs to sort these out anyway. I can take them on my own."

"Let me help you carry them upstairs, then."

"It's fine. I can do it myself." She declined his offer and carried the bags

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apter 98 Thought It Through

upstairs, leaving him to stand there awkwardly, scratching his head. Just when he was about to call Alaric, his phone rang.

"Sir, yes, Mrs. Cadogan just got back."

Victoria could still hear Hector's report as she had already climbed up the stairs, and at that moment, she smirked slightly. Wow, such care, tracking me with his phone all the time. Why not come out of her ward first?

Without turning back, she took the shopping bags upstairs.

Since she had to sort things out, she didn't rush to take a shower. Instead, she opened one of the bags and first gave Griselda the gifts she had prepared for her. Only after that did she come back to sort out the rest.

In fact, in addition to being a good excuse, she went shopping mainly because she wanted to buy some loose-fitting clothes. Before she was pregnant, her clothes were all slim-fitting styles. Although her belly was still small and she couldn't see any difference even if she wore slim-fitting

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Chapter 98 Thought It Through

clothes, she had to plan ahead and slowly transition so as not to attract attention. Fortunately, it was also the winter season.

8/10

She put her clothes into a basket and wanted to take it downstairs to give to the maid, but she almost bumped into Alaric, who was coming upstairs.

Luckily, Alaric stopped in time and supported himself against the wall, staring at her with unsteady breathing.

Not expecting him to come back so soon, she furrowed her eyebrows slightly. "Why-"

Before she could finish her sentence, he grabbed her shoulder, and then she heard him panting as he asked, "Where have you been? Why didn't you answer my calls? Do you know how long I've been looking for you?"

His grip was tight on her shoulder, and she instinctively frowned, wanting to break free.

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Chapter 98 Thought It Through

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"If you're angry about what happened last night, then..."

"I'm not angry." She broke free from his grasp and took two steps back with the basket in her hand, explaining calmly, "I didn't answer your calls because I forgot to turn off silent mode. It wasn't intentional."

"Didn't you check your phone from time to time?" He squinted his eyes, clearly not believing her.

With a calm expression, she replied, "I didn't. I was out all day today shopping and didn't have time to look at my phone."

It was only then that Alaric noticed the clothes basket in her hand, filled with clothes she had bought today. At this moment, his gaze slightly changed.

"As for what happened last night, you don't need to keep worrying about it. I've already thought it through."

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Chapter 98 Thought It Through

Upon hearing this, he squinted his long and narrow eyes, staring at her fiercely. "Thought what through?"

"I think you're right. She couldn't get off the hook at that time, so it was right for her to shift the blame onto me." A smile tugged on her lips.

His pupils contracted. "What?"

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

Chapter 99

"Nothing." Victoria smiled at the man and shrugged her shoulders. "All I did was

look at the matter from your perspective. So, I can now understand why you'd blame me. It's all because of the love and empathy you have for her."

Alaric only kept his eyes fixed on Victoria as she was speaking. "So?" He clenched his jaw, his eyes turning sinister.

"I mean, I understand she comes before everything else in your heart."

Victoria paused for a second and added, "So, I think I'd do the same thing as you did if I were in your place." Victoria hadn't been through a dire situation in which she was rescued. Thus, she had not experienced despair and hopelessness. Instead, all she could do was put herself in Alaric's shoes by imagining herself in his place, although she could not feel the emotions he felt. After all, she understood it was easy for Alaric to fall for

someone who saved him in a life-and-death situation.

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17:05 Wed, 21

Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

Alaric glared at Victoria unhappily. "What would you do? You were convinced that I would pin the blame on you, weren't you?"

Victoria kept her head down, her eyes getting shaky for some reason.

"That doesn't matter anymore." Because what matters is that I just saw through everything yesterday. I should have seen this coming sooner. If still had feelings left for this man, I would feel nothing anymore after yesterday. Victoria felt surprisingly calm when she went places and strolled around the whole day. Deep down, the only thing she wanted to do was to leave Alaric when his grandmother was done with her surgery. "Really?" Alaric pursed his lips and glimpsed the new clothes Victoria just bought as the agitated gleam in his eyes slowly faded. "Fine then, forget about it if it really doesn't matter." What else can I do besides forgetting it and moving on?

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Victoria continued to stand there for a few moments, but when she looked up once again, Alaric was nowhere to be seen. She then blinked and

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Chapter 99 Keep & Distance

brought the basket of filthy clothes with her while walking out.

Since that day, Alaric and Victoria found themselves getting along with each other in a way they had never before. While Alaric behaved indifferently without mentioning a single word about what happened the other day, Victoria went back to the way she got along with Alaric before Claudia returned from abroad. When Alaric woke up from bed early in the morning, she would help him put on his necktie; when they were eating, she would thoughtfully place the dish on his plate; when it was time for a bath, she would fill the bathtub for him. As Victoria did everything a dutiful wife should, they seemed like the perfect example of a lovely couple to everyone else, including the butler, who thought they were reconciled. Nevertheless, only Alaric knew Victoria was just pretending. After all, she had been pretending so well that she looked just like an actress who was playing her role. If it hadn't been for the disappointment that filled her eyes, Alaric would have thought she had reconciled with him as everyone

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

else did. Earlier that day, Alaric put on a jacket in an emotionless manner and wore a necktie, but before he could fasten it, he heard Victoria's voice. "Alaric, the color of your necktie doesn't match your shirt."

4/8

Alaric stopped upon hearing the lady's voice and turned around to look at her. While there was no one else around, Alaric looked at Victoria with a stony gaze as if she was a stranger. However, Victoria didn't seem to be concerned by that at all as she walked up to him and picked another necktie from the box. "This one seems to match your shirt more."

When Alaric took the necktie with a glacial look on his face, Victoria grabbed the end of the necktie and volunteered to help him put it on. "Let me do it."

Alaric fixed his gaze on Victoria and smiled sarcastically. "Fine." It was then that Victoria walked up to him and tiptoed while helping him with his tie.

As the two of them got closer to each other, Alaric was able to notice the X

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Chapter 99 Keep a D
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5/8

Soon, Alaric felt a strong urge to pull Victoria into his arms as the scent continued to waft toward him. After all, he always did that to Victoria, but just when he was about to raise his arm, Victoria retracted hers and looked at him. "Done." The nonchalance in her eyes became a blade that plunged through Alaric's heart. In that instant, all the love and sentiment he had for Victoria disappeared without a trace.

"It must have been tough for you to put on a show all this while." Alaric curled his lips and indifferently smiled.

"Not at all. It's what I should do." Victoria reacted with a casual smile.

While Victoria's unconcerned reaction seemed like a punch landed on a ex

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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“Hold on,” Victoria called out to Alaric, who only stopped in his tracks without looking back because he wanted to hear what she was going to say. Upon pondering for a few seconds, Victoria organized her thoughts and probingly asked, “About Grandma’s condition, has the doctor contacted and told you anything about it?”

At first, Alaric thought Victoria was showing concern for his grandmother, but when he heard the few words toward the end of her sentence, he slowly began to understand the meaning behind her question. Thus, he curled his lips upward and sarcastically asked, “Are you in a hurry or something?”

In spite of Alaric’s aggressive tone, Victoria didn’t seem to be angry at all. Instead, she only responded coldly and said, “Well, I’m not in a hurry. I’m just worried about Grandma’s health if her treatment takes too long.”

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

Alaric turned around and gazed at Victoria, questioning her with an indifferent tone, “Are you actually worried about her health? Or are you scared that it’s going to go against your favor, Victoria? Do you really want to stay away from me so badly?” While Victoria was speechless, Alaric continued to provoke her. “It was Noel last time, so who is it going to be this time? Bane?”

7/8

What?! Victoria couldn’t believe Alaric would bring Bane up. After all, as Noel was the man whom her father desperately tried to make her date, she could understand why Alaric would suspect Noel. However, she failed to see why Alaric would drag Bane into their discussion. Was it because of the hug that night in the bar? But Bane explained everything to him there and then, didn’t he? How egoistic! Fine, this is none of my business anymore because I’m leaving him soon anyway. There is no need for me to dwell on these matters again.

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17:05 Wed, 21 Jun

Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

Alaric was rendered speechless, which indicated that Victoria had just used the correct way of tackling the man’s mentality. Not knowing what

else he could say, he did nothing except glare unhappily at Victoria. In the meantime, Victoria just stood there and met his gaze as she didn't seem to care what he said.

A few moments later, Alaric coldly said, "I don't care what you have in mind, Victoria, but you're still my wife, as it appears. So, it is in your best interest that you keep a distance from other men to avoid any unpleasant scandals."

"Unpleasant scandals? Aren't the scandals in the office all about you? Here is a gentle reminder-if you don't want those scandals to reach your grandmother's ear, you should probably also keep a distance from other women."

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8/8 Chapter 99

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Chapter 99 **Keep** a Distance

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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13:38 Thu, 22 **Jun**

Chapter 99 Keep a Distance

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"Unpleasant scandals? Aren't the scandals in the office all about you?"

Here is a gentle reminder—if you don't want those scandals to reach your grandmother's ear, you should probably also keep a distance from other women."

Chapter 100

1/9

Without having to throw a tantrum, Victoria pissed Alaric off so much that he just stomped off like that. When he left with a darkened *look* on his face, he slammed the door hard, creating a loud bang.

However, Victoria only shrugged her shoulders and gently rubbed her belly, speaking in a soft voice. “Don’t worry, baby. Forget about him, okay? When you grow up, you won’t be like him at all. He has nothing but a short fuse.” Upon murmuring to her unborn baby, she packed her belongings and got ready to head to the company.

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Meanwhile, Alaric heard his phone ringing as soon as he entered the garage. Still angry with Victoria, he reached for his phone with a gloomy face. Nevertheless, when he saw the incoming call, the gloomy expression on his face began to disappear, whereupon he picked up the call and said, “Dr. Sully.”

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Chapter 100 Just Curious

The person calling Alaric was Benedict Sully, Griselda’s doctor. “Greetings, Mr. Cadogan.” Benedict’s voice sounded as tender as he looked. “I’m Old Mrs. Cadogan’s doctor, Benedict Sully. I’m sorry to call you at this hour, but I’d like to hear more from you about her recent condition. If possible, would it be convenient for you to bring her to me?”

2/9

Upon hearing that, Alaric knitted his eyebrows tightly. "Today?"

"Yes, Mr. Cadogan."

"Alright, then." Alaric hung up the call and sat in the driver's seat with his lips pursed. Initially thinking Griselda would need a bit more time to rest, he didn't expect Benedict to call back so soon.

Is this fate or what? Victoria was just asking about Grandma earlier; now, I got a call from Dr. Sully. Are things supposed to unfold this way? While Alaric was still caught in his train of thought, he looked at the rear mirror and saw Victoria walking his way.

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Chapter 100 Just Curious

Due to the cold weather, Victoria wore a loose, blue long-sleeve down jacket with a casual white sweater, as well as a pair of light-colored pants. To finish it off, she wore a pair of beige flats.

3/9

Since when did her style change so much? When Victoria walked past Alaric's car, the man rolled down the window and called out to her. Victoria then stopped in her tracks and looked at the man, asking, "What's wrong?" Seeing Victoria's emotionless look, Alaric felt a stab of pain in his heart again. He then closed his eyes and said, "Dr. Sully just called." Victoria, who appeared calm all this while, seemed slightly stunned when she heard Alaric's words. "Is he Grandma's doctor?" "Yeah." Alaric had his eyes fixed on Victoria. "He wants us to bring Grandma to him."

Victoria didn't think she would receive news about Griselda so soon, and she was still wondering why Benedict hadn't called earlier. "Sure. Grandma

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Chapter 100 Just Curious

seems to be recovering pretty well, so I think she should be mentally fit thus far. Anyway, are you going to tell her, or should I do it?"

Alaric kept his eyes on her for a while, so Victoria added, "Well, if you're busy, I don't mind telling Grandma about it."

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4/9

Alaric forced a sarcastic smile and asked, "You're desperate, aren't you?"

"No, I'm not," Victoria replied, whereupon the two of them found themselves in an awkward silence once again. She then let out a sigh and asked, "So, shall we tell Grandma together?" When Alaric didn't say anything, she blinked and asked, "Or do you want to tell Grandma by yourself?"

Nevertheless, Alaric continued to remain silent, only staring at the lady with a darkened gaze. After a few moments of hesitation, Victoria pursed her lips and said, "Maybe you need a little time to think about it. Let's get to work first for now." She turned around after finishing her words.

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Chapter 100 Just Curious

"Come here." Alaric called out to Victoria and uttered coldly, "We'll tell her together. Get in the car now."

Are you asking me to get in the car? Victoria gave the front passenger seat a quick glimpse and thought to herself, To be honest, I don't feel like riding shotgun. Can't I drive myself?

While Victoria continued to stand still, Alaric knitted his eyebrows and asked, "What's wrong? Don't you want to get along with me peacefully? How are you going to do that if you won't even accept a ride when you're given one?"

Victoria soon snapped out of her trance and smiled. "Oh, it's nothing. I was just wondering when we should tell Grandma about it," she replied while opening the car door. As soon as she was seated, Alaric stepped on the gas pedal and drove off at lightning speed before she even managed to buckle up.

5/9

Chapter 100 Just Curious

Startled by Alaric's unexpected reaction, Victoria turned around and gave the man an unpleasant glare. Easy, Victoria. You won't have to put up with him much longer; once Grandma's surgery is done, you're going to leave him. Please control yourself and avoid any potential conflict with him.

After the monologue where she comforted herself, Victoria managed to calm herself down and eventually fastened her seatbelt. When she was done buckling up, she heard Alaric's voice. "Why are you dressed like that today?"

While Victoria would usually be much calmer if she had been asked some other question, she somehow felt nervous and a little on edge upon

hearing that. She glanced at Alaric to observe his reaction, feeling a little speechless with how he was able to notice her change so easily even though she hadn't really changed her dressing style until that day. "What's wrong with my outfit?" She asked, feigning calmness.

"You look... different," Alaric commented.

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13:39

Thu, 22 Jun

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Chapter 100 Just Curious

Victoria felt a little suffocated as she tried to talk back. "Why do you say **so?** Must I only stick to one style?"

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"I've never seen you dress like this before." In reality, Alaric was more concerned about how Victoria had changed her dressing style without letting him know about it. While it didn't matter what kind of outfit she was wearing, he couldn't accept the fact that he had no idea when she changed her dressing style.

"Well, that still doesn't mean I can't try new styles, right?" Victoria responded emotionlessly.

Alaric didn't say anything else, looking as though he was either preoccupied with his own problems or tired of entertaining her. Alaric remained silent for some time, and Victoria heaved a sigh of relief.

He's probably over it already, right? Despite the thought of that, Alaric's

subsequent body language seemed to suggest otherwise, making

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Victoria think it would be better to talk back rather than remain silent to keep him from doubting her.

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Thus, Victoria secretly made up her mind to do something about it when she arrived at the office so that Alaric wouldn't dwell on the change in her dressing style. Before getting out of the car, she asked, "How is Claudia's face?"

"Nothing new," Alaric answered after a brief pause.

"I see, but didn't you say it was going to leave a scar?"

"Yeah."

"So, what's next?"

At that moment, the car entered the dimly lit car park. Therefore, Victoria couldn't see Alaric's expression, only hearing his unhappy voice when the car stopped. "What do you mean?"

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In truth, Victoria was going to ask Alaric when and how they should settle their scores, considering the fact that Claudia's face was already scarred. However, before she was about to speak her mind, she swallowed her words, thinking an argument would likely ensue between them if she did

that.

Perhaps I should wait until Grandma is done with her surgery. Victoria then pursed her lips and said, "Nothing. I was just curious."