

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 446

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Terrance immediately caught on to Victoria's point when he heard her saying she wasn't sure where to look for Bane. "Miss Selwyn, is this your first visit to this country?"

Victoria thought about it for a while and then shook her head. "No, it's not my first, but I did visit this place alone once and only stayed for two days." Furthermore, I stayed in a hotel during my last visit, and this is exactly why I have no idea about this 'same place' Bane mentioned. Forget about my last visit. I don't think there is actually any other place where I can meet Bane except for the villa he had taken me to. After all, that was where I spent the longest time in this particular country.

Terrance also fell into deep thought after hearing Victoria's response. "Is it possible that the place he mentioned isn't in this city or country?"

Victoria initially harbored similar thoughts. However, knowing Bane's personality, she figured it was unlikely that he would lie to her. In addition, even if she did come to the wrong place, Bane should have told her during their phone call earlier. After all, he was the one who wanted to see her and 'coincidentally' knew her flight number.

"I don't think so. Just head to the villa if I really can't think of anywhere else." Besides, there is no other place in this country that Bane and I had been to other than that villa. Hence, I can only go there if I want to find Bane.

Terrance instantly became a little helpless as well. Still, he also knew that there was

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really nothing he could do at the moment. “In that case, Miss Selwyn, why don’t we rest for today and go there tomorrow?” If truth be told, Terrance was worried sick about Alaric. Yet, he knew he had no right to request Victoria to rescue Alaric as soon as possible. In addition, he always felt that with their capabilities, they should be able to think of a plan to save Alaric without dragging Victoria into this. Although Terrance and the others had yet to locate Alaric’s whereabouts and couldn’t even figure out just how Alaric would fall into Bane’s hands, as Alaric’s subordinate, Terrance naturally sided with his boss. Mr. Cadogan is shrewd. So, even if he actually fell for Bane’s scheme, it’s definitely due to Bane’s viperish nature.

“We will head there now.” Victoria’s voice snapped Terrance out of his thoughts, and he happened to meet Victoria’s eyes, catching sight of her dispassionate stare.

Terrance was momentarily stunned before coming back to his senses, muttering,

“Then, our men...”

Victoria gently breathed out a sigh. “Since he already knows where I am, that means he knows everything about my itinerary and the people around me.”

Judging from Victoria’s words, Terrance knew she wasn’t planning on taking anyone with her.

“There’s no way we can allow you to do that. Miss Selwyn, what if something happens if you go there by yourself? How should I explain to Mr. Cadogan when he returns?”

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Victoria was already in a bad mood after having been in a state of anxiety these days.

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Now that she heard the words that escaped Terrance’s lips, she couldn’t help but breathe out a noisy sigh of frustration. Regardless, Victoria quickly suppressed any outburst when she understood that Terrance was simply concerned for her safety. Still, her tone was tinged with slight frustration as she lectured, “Stop being so indecisive, will you? Do you even want to rescue Alaric?”

Terrance blinked in the face of her sharp words. Then, he soon realized that he was being rather long-winded.

Victoria massages her temples, obviously having a headache worrying her mind about this matter. “Show them the road to the villa. I will walk over to the villa myself once we are almost there,” she ordered wearily.

Terrance parted his lips and wanted to say something, anything. Alas, he could only bite back his protests when he saw that Victoria had already made herself comfortable on the seat with her eyes closed, clearly indicating that she had no intentions of continuing this discussion. He knew that she was only reacting so strongly because of Alaric’s disappearance and Bane’s part in it. I understand how anxious Miss Selwyn is

right now. After all, we still can't locate Mr. Cadogan after losing contact with him for such a long time.

As Terrance thought of that, he had no choice but to pass the order to the driver in a low voice before drawing up a plan in his mind. The duty of protecting Miss Selwyn falls

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onto my shoulders now that Mr. Cadogan isn't around.

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The road to the villa still wasn't that smooth. At first, Victoria could rest on the seat with her eyes closed. As time went by, her face turned ghastly. Perhaps it was because she had barely eaten in the past two days. Therefore, her stomach wasn't feeling well at the moment. Moreover, the journey was so bumpy. Eventually, she could feel nausea rising within the depths of her empty belly, but she could only endure it with her utmost strength.

Once the car stopped, the first thing Victoria did when she got out of the car was to rush to the roadside and vomit.

"Miss Selwyn!" Terrance freaked out when he saw her acting this way. Hence, he immediately opened the car door, stepped out of the car, and dashed to Victoria's side.

"Are you okay, Miss Selwyn?"

When he noticed Victoria, who was squatting by the roadside under a strong breeze, he thought for a moment before hastily taking off his coat and putting it on her. After that, he helped the pale-looking Victoria up.

“I’m fine.”

Only then did Terrance notice that Victoria’s face was as pale as a sheet. He didn’t even notice how uncomfortable Victoria was as he was busy instructing the driver and immersed in his train of thought. Judging from Miss Selwyn’s current state, she

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probably got motion sickness from the overly bumpy car ride earlier. While Terrance was speculating the cause of her discomfort, Victoria put his mind to rest by saying, “I’m just suffering from motion sickness. I will be okay after a minute.”

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“I’m sorry, Miss Selwyn. The road to the villa is too bumpy. I should have asked them to drive slower.” I have to say—Miss Selwyn is pretty good at enduring her motion sickness. She actually managed to tough it through the entire journey without a word of complaint.

Nonetheless, Victoria merely flashed Terrance a smile, signaling to him she was all right. Afterward, she stood still for a moment. Then, she returned Terrance’s coat to him.

“It’s okay, Miss Selwyn. Just wear it. Taking care of you is what I should do. Besides, it’s just a piece of clothing.”

Since she broke out in a cold sweat due to her motion sickness, she was feeling rather chilly, enough that she wanted to shiver as she stood outside the car. To make matters worse, the cold breeze brushed against her, forcing the coldness to seep into her bones. Unfortunately, as the coat belonged to Terrance, Victoria felt bad for ‘borrowing’

1. it. Therefore, Victoria’s stress immediately lifted when she heard Terrance say she could wear it. After she thanked Terrance, she immediately put the coat back on. She glanced at the road ahead and then instructed, “This is the place. Wait outside. I’ll go in and have a look.”

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Terrance stared at her hesitantly, clearly thinking that they shouldn’t endanger her safety.

“Now, now. Don’t worry about me. Bane wouldn’t dare to harm me. Moreover, I will definitely rescue Alaric. I can only escape when he’s safe. Isn’t that right, Mr. Levane?”

Terrance bit his lower lip upon hearing her reassurances and attempted to persuade Victoria, “But what if he doesn’t keep his promise?”

Victoria simply graced him with a faint smile and said, “I have ways to deal with him if he doesn’t keep his promise, so don’t worry.”

After that, she turned around and left without any further hesitation.

Meanwhile, Terrance stood in place and watched as the slender figure in front of him walked farther and farther away with firm strides that displayed not even a hint of hesitation under the chilly breeze.

There was still some distance away between the car and the villa. No one was around, and it took Victoria a while to walk up to the front of the villa. The door was shut. She glanced around before looking up. Her gaze met the surveillance camera on top of her. At this moment, Victoria, who believed Bane had made sufficient preparations, looked at the camera and cut to the chase. "Tell Bane that I have arrived."

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Then, she walked up to the chair by the front door, sat down, and tightened the collar of the coat. I have never seen this chair here. Was it prepared just for me? Victoria counted down the seconds as she waited.

After she waited for about two minutes, the door finally opened. Victoria turned around and looked in the direction of the door. Her pupils dilated in surprise when she saw the nearing figure. Frankly speaking, Victoria did take into consideration that Bane wouldn't show up at all. Likewise, she also speculated that there was a chance that she wouldn't get to see Bane here today at all. Regardless, she didn't expect that she would

encounter this person here...

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Victoria looked at the person who showed up. It took her a while to regain her senses. Then, she strode happily to the oncoming person. "Mr. Hudson, thank God you are okay.

I thought you..."

Yet, as soon as Victoria approached him, Ethan took a few steps back, keeping a relative distance from her. In an instant, Victoria stopped and looked at Ethan with some puzzlement. "What's the matter?"

Instead of answering her, Ethan merely looked at her with his gaze as cold as ice. The way Ethan was currently treating her was completely different from the past. It was as though the two of them were strangers. Hold up! Even strangers would receive a far warmer treatment. Right now, Ethan's demeanor was as if there was an enmity between him and Victoria.

"Miss Selwyn, I have been waiting for your arrival," he uttered coldly.

Victoria could barely maintain the smile on her lips. After a while, she asked, "Are you alright, Mr. Hudson?"

Unfortunately, Ethan didn't reply to her. Instead, he stared outside the door.

"Miss Selwyn, you came here by yourself, right? Did you fulfill your promise?"

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For a moment, Victoria was clueless about what was going on. Even so, she had no choice but to nod along with Ethan's words.

"They sent me here and dropped me off somewhere quite far from here. I didn't let

them follow me in," Victoria paused momentarily after saying that. Shortly afterward, she asked, "This doesn't count as me breaking the promise, right?"

To Victoria's dismay, Ethan showed no response. So, she released her sigh and asked, "What should I do now? Where is Bane?"

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Ethan didn't close the door after opening it. Rather, he simply stood there in an imposing manner. Victoria could probably guess what would happen next upon seeing his reaction. Bane isn't here. The reason he asked me to come over was merely to let me see Mr. Hudson. He probably wants Mr. Hudson to take me to another place.

"Mr. Morison isn't here."

"Then, where is he? How can I get in touch with him? And what about Alaric? What has

he done to

Alaric? Is Alaric currently safe? I can fulfill my promise, but I want to see that

Alaric is safe. Otherwise, I won't follow you anywhere."

Just when Victoria's voice faded, Ethan took out his phone and handed it to her.

Victoria glanced at the phone, and only then did she realize that Ethan had been on the phone all this while. It looks like Mr. Hudson and Bane were on the phone before I

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showed up. So, this explains why Mr. Hudson is treating me so indifferently. I knew it!

Since Mr. Hudson had saved me, there's no way he would be so cold toward me. Now that she was aware of the circumstances, she took the phone.

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"Victoria." Sure enough, Bane's voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Where is Alaric?" Victoria demanded.

"Now that you're here, you will see him sooner or later."

“Since I’m here, why don’t you let me see him?”

“Victoria, it’s not that I don’t want to let you see him. But the problem is... You won’t be able to see him at the moment.”

Victoria narrowed her eyes upon hearing his words. “What do you mean? Is he not here?”

“Are you trying to trick me into telling you?”

Victoria remained silent.

“Well, that doesn’t matter. I trust you. Since you’re here, I shall tell you that Alaric is currently in another country. I have already arranged his flight. Only you and Ethan will board the flight. I will let him go once you’re here.”

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Victoria’s brows remained tightly furrowed throughout her conversation with Bane.

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“Which country?” So, it turns out that Alaric is no longer in this country. Then, what’s the

point of Mr. Levane and the others looking for him here? Since they can’t find Alaric here, they naturally have no clue just where to begin their search. I have to provide this clue to them. But how am I supposed to leave this clue to them now that I’m here?

There’s a surveillance camera at the front door, so Bane should have installed more inside just to monitor my every movement; be it visible or hidden.

Victoria bit her lower lip at that thought. Then, she heard Bane’s voice ringing out once more, “I can’t tell you where he is, but he will remain safe as long as you come to me.

And by the way, I will ask Mr. Hudson to show you a photo later. Consider it a goodwill of sorts.”

Goodwill? Victoria was more disgusted than impressed by Bane's statement. He actually thinks I still have any faith in him!? Victoria forced herself to resist the urge to chastise him. Eventually, she hung up without further ado and handed the phone to Ethan.

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"I want to see the photo right now."

Ethan took the phone expressionlessly. After that, he tapped on the photo and showed it to Victoria. Her face instantly took on a ghastly expression when she saw the photo.

In the photo, Alaric was on a bed. His face was pale, and he was strewn across the bed with a visible injury on his forehead. A layer of gauze was wrapped around the wound,

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and there were still traces of blood seen on the gauze.

"What the hell happened to him?" Victoria stepped forward and grabbed Ethan's arm.

"Why was he so badly wounded? Was Bane the one who did this to him? Is Alaric's life in danger?"

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Ethan merely glanced at Victoria's hand that was grabbing his arm. Then, he shook her off expressionlessly and stepped back, keeping a distance from her. "Miss Selwyn, I'm afraid I don't know anything. So, if you want to know, you should ask Mr. Morison yourself."

"Fine. I shall ask him myself."

Yet, Ethan didn't pass the phone to her again after taking it back.

"Didn't you ask me to ask him myself? How am I supposed to call him if you don't pass me the phone?"

“Miss Selwyn, what Mr. Morison meant was that he would only tell after you have met him.”

Victoria fell silent.

After that, Ethan turned around and headed inside without another word. When Victoria saw this, she quickly followed after him. “When do we depart then?”

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“Tomorrow.”

“Tomorrow?” Victoria widened her eyes in disbelief. “Are you kidding me?! It’s not today?!”

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Alas, Ethan never responded to her disbelief. As a result, Victoria had no choice but to follow behind him and constantly pestered him about wanting to depart today. Indeed, Victoria couldn’t possibly sit still after seeing how badly injured Alaric was.

“Mr. Hudson! Mr. Hudson!”

Suddenly, Ethan stopped. Then, he pushed open the door to a room and said, “Miss Selwyn, this is the room you had previously stayed in. I have asked someone to clean it so you can stay without worrying about anything else. In addition, if you have a way to contact those waiting outside, feel free to do so. Ask them to leave. Or else, I may not guarantee that Mr. Cadogan will remain safe.”

Did Terrance and the others come to the villa? Victoria frowned when she heard Ethan’s

monotonous instructions. She took out her phone and gave Terrance a call. After that, she went into the bathroom and turned on all the faucets. I know Bane is likely spying on me through the surveillance cameras in the villa. But he won’t be so out of his mind that he would install one in the bathroom, will he?

Terrance hastily asked upon receiving her phone call, "Miss Selwyn, are you alright?"

"I'm fine."

"Where's Mr. Cadogan? Is he inside the villa? What's the situation inside? Are there many people guarding the area?"

Victoria took a deep breath before replying, "Alaric isn't here, so don't waste your energy on fruitless endeavors."

"Mr. Cadogan isn't there? W-What about Bane? Is he there?"

"Only Mr. Hudson is here."

When Terrance heard Victoria mention Mr. Hudson, he was momentarily stunned.

Then, he said, "Isn't he the one we've been looking for previously? H-He had saved..."

"Well, something happened. So, he is still Bane's assistant."

Victoria considered their current situation and came up with a plan, saying, "Sit tight for now. Based on the latest information, Alaric isn't in this city. Then again, there is a chance that Bane is deceiving me. In short, ask your search party to pay more attention to any clues while looking for Alaric."

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Terrance responded after hearing Victoria's plan. "I understand. I will ask them to pay closer attention. Miss Selwyn..."

"I will stay here temporarily. As for our next move... I will figure out a way to get in touch with you."

Terrance immediately understood that Victoria wouldn't leave with them upon hearing those words.

"Miss Selwyn, are you confined? Or..."

Confined? Victoria glanced outside. When she saw how Ethan left without bothering to care whether she would escape, Victoria could clearly tell he had no intention of confining her. What actually confined her was her worry in regard to Alaric's safety. She was entrapped by her anxiety the moment she decided to purchase the flight ticket and fly over here.

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"No one is confining me. In fact, I'm quite free here. Still, you should know what our main purpose is for coming here. Take your men and leave today. Go back, rest, and search for clues."

Terrance nodded after a long beat of silence. "Don't worry, Miss Selwyn. I will do as you say."

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Beep... Beep... Beep... After they ended the call, Victoria placed the phone on the washbasin. Then, she bent down and washed her face before turning off the bathroom faucet.

After that, she turned around and went out to look for Ethan. Initially, Victoria thought Ethan would stay in one of the rooms in the villa. Therefore, she was surprised when she bumped into Ethan a while after leaving her room. At this moment, Ethan stood upright at the stairway like he was standing guard. And since his back was facing her, Victoria couldn't see his facial expression. Hence, she only saw his back silhouette. It was then that Victoria noticed Ethan looked far thinner now in contrast to before.

Although he is being indifferent to me now, Mr. Hudson did pay a hefty price for saving me in the past.

Even though Victoria didn't know what happened during this period that caused Ethan

to undergo such a drastic change in his temperament, she had absolute faith that Ethan was a good person when Ethan would go as far as to disregard his injury and help her last time. Something that I didn't know probably had happened. That is why Mr. Hudson is acting this way.

When she thought of this, she carefully approached Ethan. Just when she was about to call out to him, Ethan, who had been standing still, turned around.

Then, he stared at her with an unnerving blank expression and asked, "Miss Selwyn, where are you going?"

"Nowhere." Victoria stepped forward. She made sure to keep a certain distance from him and said in her usual tone, "I just want to come and ask if we can depart tonight."

"Miss Selwyn, the scheduled departure time is tomorrow. Mr. Morison will not change his mind."

"Can I speak to him, then?"

"You can't."

The awkward conversation made Victoria feel powerless for a moment. By the looks of things, I don't think we will depart tonight. Victoria pursed her lips and had no choice but to turn around and return to her room.

Although I am worried sick about Alaric, looking at Mr. Hudson's stern attitude and Bane's refusal to answer my calls, there is no way I can depart today. She sighed helplessly at that thought and flopped onto the bed.

In truth, Victoria hadn't rested for days. Therefore, her body and eyes were exhausted right now. Yet, as soon as she lay on the bed, her mind was filled with the image she just saw. Alaric seems badly injured in that photo. What the hell is going on? Is he alright? Is there medical staff around to treat his wounds? As for Bane, I feel the only

thing I can be sure of is that Alaric isn't in danger. Then again, Bane certainly doesn't care if Alaric's injury will result in any sequelae that will affect him for the rest of his life. The more Victoria thought about it, the more anxious she became, causing her to toss Chapter 448 Ask Bane to Call Me and turn on the bed.

In the end, Victoria got up, went downstairs to the kitchen, and opened the refrigerator. Just when she was looking for something, Ethan walked toward her. When he saw that she was rifling through the refrigerator, he said, "Miss Selwyn, just give me an order if you need anything."

Nevertheless, Victoria ignored him. After she rummaged through the refrigerator for quite a while, she finally found two cans of cold beer. She took them, turned around, and walked upstairs.

Instantly, a cold voice sounded in Ethan's in-ear monitoring earphones. "Don't give her the beer."

There was no doubt it was Bane's voice. He had been spying on them from the moment

Ethan met Victoria. That was why Ethan treated Victoria with an extremely indifferent demeanor.

Ethan swiftly reacted upon receiving Bane's order and quickly caught up with Victoria. "Miss Selwyn."

Victoria stopped in her tracks and looked at him expressionlessly as well.

"I can't let you take these beers." Ethan reached out. "Give them to me."

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Victoria lowered her head and glanced at the two cans of beer she was holding. Then, she pulled her lips into a cold sneer and questioned, "What's the matter? I don't even have the freedom to choose the drink I want?"

Ethan kept his mouth shut, apparently acknowledging that Victoria was right.

Victoria chuckled lightly at his current state. Yet, she didn't hand him the beer and merely continued her way to her room.

Ethan's facial expression turned ghastly. "Miss Selwyn."

When Victoria heard the footsteps Ethan made in order to keep up with her, she twitched the corner of her mouth slightly. It's unlikely that Mr. Hudson will be bothered by me drinking two cans of beer. He should have received Bane's order. That is why he insists on stopping me.

It seems that everything I say and do is indeed under Bane's control. But it's just two cans of beer. Why isn't he letting me drink, though? "Ask Bane to call me." With that, she

immediately turned around and went upstairs.

Ethan watched as her silhouette disappeared before his sight. Then, he apologized, "Mr. Morison, forgive me for my incompetence. Miss Selwyn..."

Bane immediately disconnected the phone, startling Ethan for a moment. The instant Ethan realized that Bane was going to call Victoria and wouldn't listen in for the time  
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being, he couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief. Still, he didn't dare to do anything.

After all, there were surveillance cameras all over the villa. Hence, there was nothing he  
could do.

Victoria entered the room and closed the door. Just as she pulled the tab of the beer can, the phone rang.

Victoria swept a glance at the phone and could roughly guess who it was.

However, she didn't answer the call. Instead, she placed the phone on the table before

slowly sipping the beer.

The cold beer was soothing, especially in this weather as hot as today. Likewise, the cold beer dispelled a good deal of Victoria's frustration.

After several sips, the call disconnected. Unfortunately, it kept ringing and ringing.

Victoria finally picked up the phone after finishing half of the can.

As soon as she answered, Bane's deep voice rang in her ear. "Why are you drinking?"

Victoria was slightly amused when she heard the exasperation in Bane's tone.

"Why do you care if I'm drinking beer? You aren't confining me, so you can't possibly control what I eat or drink, can you?"

Bane was stunned for a moment. Then, he said, "Victoria, your period is close. What if you suffer from severe cramps later as a result of drinking cold beer now?"

Victoria was surprised when she heard Bane's reason, for she didn't expect he would say such a thing. Hence, she glanced at the date and found that her menstrual period was indeed fast approaching. I was so preoccupied with these affairs during this period that I completely forgot about it. Still, I would probably drink these beers even if I did remember. I can't help it. I'm in a horrid mood right now.

So, she said, "Why do you care if I'm having my period soon? It's none of your business."

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Bane fell silent for a while. Then, he said, "You know I don't want to see you suffer."

However, Victoria sneered, "Really?"

"So, stop drinking the beer, okay?"

To Bane's surprise, just when his voice faded, Victoria stated her request in the next second, "Sure, but I want to depart tonight." Initially, I simply wanted to dispel my frustration with a sip of iced cold beer. Yet, I can't believe that doing so gives me a

chance to control Bane. In that case, there's no reason why I shouldn't take advantage of it. Either way, I'm only here because of his threats.

There was a long silence on the other end of the phone before Bane's voice sounded, "Not today."

"Is that so?" Victoria sneered. "Since it is out of the question, I have nothing left to say to you."

"Victoria, why do you insist on fighting me?"

"Fighting you?" Victoria's gaze darkened slightly. "I thought we were friends. So, if I do turn against you one day, it's likely because you forced me to."

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With that, Victoria stopped talking to Bane and immediately ended the call. Then, she picked up the can of beer and slowly took one sip at a time.

After a while, the door was pushed open, and Ethan promptly walked in, trying to snatch the beer from her. However, Victoria seemed to have predicted this scenario in advance as she moved away just when Ethan was about to take the beer from her.

When Ethan saw this, he could only say helplessly, "Miss Selwyn, it's late. *You* should rest. It's unhealthy to be drinking at this hour."

"Oh, but I can't sleep. Can't I drink some beer to help me sleep?"

Ethan pursed his lips and said nothing.

"Get out. I will rest after I finish drinking."

Yet, Ethan stood still. Victoria had no idea what he was doing and shot him a glance.

Finally, Ethan spoke, "Miss Selwyn, please stop drinking. Mr. Morison has ordered me to take you *to* the airport. We will depart pronto."

Victoria paused what she was doing for a second. Then, she looked at Ethan, feeling

slightly surprised. Although she intended to threaten Bane with this, she never expected that he would give in so easily. Victoria pursed her lips as mixed feelings welled up in her heart. He still cares about me at such a juncture? Why? He can totally ignore me and force me to wait until tomorrow. Besides, what does my discomfort have anything to do with him?

When Ethan saw that Victoria was seemingly lost in her own thoughts, he called out, "Miss Selwyn?"

Victoria snapped back to her senses when she heard Ethan's voice. "You're not lying, are you? Are you really leaving for the airport now? I thought you guys said that you were planning to depart tomorrow."

Ethan explained with a nod, "It's true. Mr. Morison did order me to take you to the airport."

Victoria immediately placed the beer in her hand down and rose to her feet. "Then, what the hell are we waiting for? Let's go."

It was late at night, and Victoria was heading to the airport in the car with Ethan as her driver.

Their surroundings were dark at this moment as they were leaving under the cover of night, and their car was the only vehicle on the road. In fact, Bane was so assertive that he didn't assign an extra man except for Ethan, who had helped her escape before.

Such a situation can only mean one thing. Bane has considered all aspects and confirmed that I won't run away. That was why he made such an arrangement. Judging by how Mr. Hudson knows my condition at any time, and he can convey Bane's thoughts and news to me at any time, these two probably have been on the phone all the time. In fact, I suspect it isn't just the phone. There should be other devices. It's no

wonder Mr. Hudson is treating me so indifferently. What if I cut off the interception?  
And most importantly, is Mr. Hudson under threat?

Victoria thought about plenty of things while on her way to the airport. She was so lost in her thoughts that she was still in a daze when they arrived at the airport. It was until Ethan opened the car door for her and asked her to step out that she finally got out of the car.

When she got out, she happened to come across Ethan standing in front of her. By the time she looked up, she saw him winking at her.

Victoria paused, not quite getting his point. Yet, now that she had taken into consideration that Bane was listening in, she didn't dare to act rashly.

She met Ethan's gaze and had a faint idea of what was happening. Mr. Hudson had to keep an indifferent attitude due to the surveillance cameras scattered all over the villa.

He couldn't interact with me at all, not even a glance. But now that we are at the airport, there's a chance that Bane isn't spying. Well, maybe he still is. But the coverage range is

certainly not as widespread as the surveillance cameras in the villa. Bane is likely only able to assign manual labor to help him spy on me at the airport. Humans are prone to laziness and can't cover the entire airport. Even so, I still can't rule out even the

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slightest possibility that he is monitoring me at any time. I can't interact with Mr.

Hudson freely. Hence, if I do want to have a private chat with Mr. Hudson... I can only think of an alternative plan later.

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So, Victoria thought it over and said, "I think my stomach isn't feeling well right now due to the cold beer I drank earlier."

Ethan paused for a moment upon hearing that. Then, he asked out of concern, “Miss Selwyn, should I prepare some medicine for you?”

Victoria shook her head. “It’s okay, but I do need tissues. Do you have any?”

Since there wasn’t anything unusual with her reply, and her tone and attitude were relatively indifferent, Ethan was momentarily unsure if Victoria had seen the hint he dropped just now.

“Yes, I do.” Ethan took out a packet of tissue from his bag and handed it to Victoria.

Just as he was still hesitating if he should look for another opportunity to drop another hint later, Victoria wrote something in his palm when she took the tissue.

Ethan initially thought Victoria had accidentally touched his palm. However, he later found she didn’t move away after the touch. Instead, she wrote something in his palm.

Ethan stood still. When Victoria finished writing, he fumbled for a while before realizing she had written the word, ‘Wait’.

With that, Ethan glanced at Victoria, who had already entered the airport with the tissue.

A group of men came to assist Victoria as soon as she entered the airport. Some even wanted to follow her after learning she was going to the bathroom. Victoria instantly furrowed her brows and reprimanded, “Are you guys out of your mind? I am going to the women’s bathroom, yet you men want to follow me there?”

Those brawny men instantly felt a little embarrassed right after she questioned them, “Miss Selwyn, we have no such intentions. We fear the airport may be too crowded and unsafe for you, so…”

In the end, perhaps due to their fear of offending Victoria, the brawny men immediately apologized to Victoria before he finished his sentence. They also dared not follow her

to the women's room.

The instant she entered the ladies' room, she frowned, feeling troubled. I didn't expect that there would be so many people under Bane's thumb at the airport. If that's the case, I probably won't have a chance to talk to Mr. Hudson later.

Victoria sighed in frustration at that thought. Then, she turned on the faucet and washed her hands. Just then, she saw a college student coming out of bathroom stalls with a backpack.

The college student was on the phone with her headset. She was talking about

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something when she took out a pen from her bag and said, "Hold on. I'll write that down."

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A sudden idea came across Victoria's mind when she saw this scene. Once the college student finished writing the information down, Victoria walked up to her and greeted her.

"Hi, can you lend me your pen?"

The college student was startled for a moment. When she saw that Victoria was staring at her pen, she agreed and handed the pen to her.

"Thank you." After that, Victoria took out the tissue Ethan gave her just now and began to write on it.

As for the college student, she simply stood still on the side after seeing Victoria's weird behavior. She was curious, but she was too shy to read the content Victoria wrote on the tissue.

Once Victoria finished writing and handed her the pen as well as thanked her, the

female college student couldn't help but call out to her.

Victoria glanced at her.

The female college student pursed her lips, hesitating to speak. In the end, she made a

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gesture to Victoria.

Victoria watched closely. It turned out that the female college student had

misunderstood the situation and asked Victoria if she needed her help to call 911.

Hence, Victoria shook her head as she donned a gentle smile and said, "It's fine. Thank you."

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Victoria left the bathroom and returned to the group of men after thanking the female college student for her kindness.

Victoria didn't notice the female college student had actually followed her out of the bathroom and watched as she walked up to the group of men. The student also saw that Victoria was instantly surrounded by those men from a distance.

Miss Selwyn, you're back. We can depart now."

Perhaps these men were worried that they might screw things up after accepting this mission assigned by Bane, so they never left her side. Meanwhile, the female college student behind them felt the whole thing was fishy as she watched the group escort Victoria to the destination under their guard.

Victoria slowed down on the way to the departure hall and sought an opportunity to stuff the tissue from earlier into Ethan's pocket.

Ethan felt it, and his eyes flickered slightly. Even so, he continued to walk ahead, acting

as if nothing had happened.

Before they boarded the plane, Ethan came up with an excuse to go to the bathroom.

Once he entered, he took the tissue out of his pocket and read what Victoria had written.

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There were two questions. One was inquiring about Alaric's current condition, whereas another asked Ethan about his situation and if Bane was threatening him.

Victoria's concern warmed Ethan's heart. It seems that Miss Selwyn understands that I have my reasons and doesn't misunderstand me solely because of my indifferent attitude.

After he read the contents, he flushed the tissue down the toilet and left with a deadpan face.

After the entire entourage boarded the plane, only Ethan sat next to Victoria, while the others scattered throughout the seats in the front, back, and right sides.

Victoria looked at Ethan twice during this period. However, when she saw he didn't respond to her signals, she was so confused that she wondered if Ethan didn't notice the tissue she had stuffed into his pocket. Well, it is possible. After all, my movement at that time was so gentle. It's normal if he didn't notice. So, should I remind him to check his pocket now? While Victoria was in her train of thought, the flight attendants came to hand out the in-flight meal to the passengers.

Once the flight attendant's airline catering trolley stopped next to their seats, Victoria seized the opportunity and turned to look at Ethan. Just as she wanted to remind Ethan that she had stuffed a note in his pocket, she saw him writing something on the seat armrest.

The message was brief, and Victoria could tell what Ethan wrote at a glance—safe.

Then, she raised her head and lip-synched the word. Ethan nodded, gesturing to her that she got it right.

Now that she had clear information that Alaric was safe, she finally breathed a sigh of relief. She was so worried that Alaric's injury would be too severe that it would leave permanent side effects, which would affect him for the rest of his life. Otherwise, Victoria wouldn't have thought of rushing to where he was at such an hour. After all, the earlier she arrived, the earlier Bane would let Alaric go. Or, the earlier Alaric could get his injury treated. In Victoria's opinion, either of these was better than Alaric dying. Afterward, Victoria remembered that Ethan only told her about Alaric's condition and didn't mention his.

Unfortunately, when Victoria turned to look at him again, Ethan looked as though he had no intentions of interacting with her.

Then, Victoria turned to look at the others. Although everyone looked as though they were wolfing down or enjoying their snacks, their focus was entirely on her and Ethan. Victoria had no appetite for food, so she eventually only asked for a glass of lukewarm water and drank it. After that, she leaned on the seat, closed her eyes, and rested her mind.

It took a long time before they arrived at their destination, and Victoria was indeed exhausted after taking two flights in succession, she drifted into her sleep not long after she leaned on her seat.

Victoria dreamed of the image she saw in the photo Ethan showed her today. She walked up to the unconscious Alaric and sat down next to him. Unexpectedly, Alaric woke up shortly after Victoria sat down. As for Victoria, she wanted to ask about his

condition when she saw that Alaric had woken up. Yet, as soon as she leaned over toward him, Alaric resisted her approach, looked at her coldly, and asked icily, “Who are you? Why are you in my ward?”

Victoria was stunned when she heard Alaric asking her who she was. She stared at the man in front of her and wondered why he didn’t know who she was. Just as Victoria was about to explain to him, Alaric immediately removed the intravenous drip and left the ward. Later, Victoria anxiously tried to chase after him but lost sight of him when she stepped out of the ward. She searched high and low to the point that she continued looking even if she was out of breath from running. However, she had no luck in finding him.

After that day, she searched for Alaric in many places. She finally spotted a figure with an identical silhouette to Alaric. Alas, it didn’t matter how hard she tried, she still couldn’t catch up to him. She could only follow behind him and watch as he tied the knot with another woman in a wedding dress. In the end, that woman even went as far as to drive Nicole and Nathan out and pointed at Victoria as she scolded, “SI\*t, I don’t  
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care where you come from, but I can’t believe you are so delusional that you think you can steal my place and become Mrs. Cadogan with two b\*stards. Get out of here before I lose my temper. Or else, don’t blame me for what’s to come after.”

*5/7*

As for Nathan and Nicole, they hugged Victoria and cried, asking for their father. Victoria was distressed. She couldn’t understand what exactly happened and why things suddenly ended this way. She anxiously wanted to solve the matter, yet her whole body felt as though it had been tied up. She was completely paralyzed, and as a

result, she felt like a cat on a hot tin roof.

“Miss Selwyn. Miss Selwyn.” Victoria seemed to hear someone calling her name in the distance. Even though that voice seemed familiar, she couldn’t recognize the owner of the voice at the moment. Currently, her head felt as if it was about to split in half with each call.

“Miss Selwyn!”

Victoria jerked awake from her nightmare. She opened her eyes and saw the natural, bright sight before her. At this moment, the chaotic scenarios and the wailing she from before had disappeared and were replaced by the panicked and worried expression of Ethan and two flight attendants.

Both flight attendants rejoiced after they saw Victoria wake up, likely and justifiably freaked out by her situation earlier. “She’s awake. She’s awake. Miss, are you okay?” one of the flight attendants asked Victoria kindly while gently wiping the cold sweat from her forehead.

A realization hit Victoria as she looked at the bright space in front of her and the people around her. Everything I saw just now was nothing but a nightmare. And now, I am awake.

Victoria breathed a sigh of relief when she came to a realization that she was merely having a nightmare earlier. Unfortunately, since her physical and mental state remained in a state of tension after that dream, her whole body felt feeble now that she had relaxed.

“I’m fine. I was just having a nightmare.” Victoria forced a smile in order to prevent the people around her from worrying. Nonetheless, she couldn’t maintain the smile on her face for long as she slowly leaned on the seat and closed her eyes.

When Ethan noticed that Victoria was in such a weak state, he whispered to the flight attendant, "Excuse me, but do you have any soup or hydromel I can give her?"

The flight attendant swiftly went to prepare something for Victoria. Meanwhile, Ethan took out a tissue from his pocket and handed it to Victoria. "Miss Selwyn."

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Victoria took the tissue but had no energy to wipe off her sweat. She merely held the tissue in her palm.

When Ethan saw this, he had no choice but to wipe the sweat for her.

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Those sitting next to their seats watched as Ethan helped Victoria wipe her cold sweats but said nothing. After all, they had all witnessed Victoria's condition just now and were really taken aback by it. They were terrified that something would happen to her and that Bane would pin the blame on them. For that reason, they suspected nothing when they saw Ethan taking care of Victoria.

Victoria felt a little sorry after sensing that Ethan was wiping her sweat for her. Just as she was about to take the tissue and wipe the sweat herself, she heard Ethan say, "Miss

Selwyn, you are extremely worried about Mr. Cadogan's safety, aren't you? You don't have to. As far as I know, Mr. Cadogan is likely not in danger right now."