

Departure with a Belly Chapter 471

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Chapter 471

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Search for his name? After Ethan left, Victoria quickly took out her phone and opened the browser while thinking about how he had suggested she search for Alaric. Is this person famous? Then, she typed the name into the browser and found that Ethan was right. Entering the name did yield results, and there was even an introduction about Alaric. Despite scrolling for a long time, she couldn't find any photos.

Is his identity so confidential? The introductory information indicates that his status and identity are unquestionably important, but there isn't even a single photo to be found. After that, she continued her browser search but could not locate any pertinent information. She was about to give up when she came across a photo that looked like Alaric and clicked on it. Even though the photo was taken at a distance, she could make out a tall, handsome man in the middle of a group. Despite the camera's distance, she could still discern his attractive features. She then stared at the photo in deep thought. What a familiar feeling...

Nevertheless, the shot was taken from a distance, and the man wore sunglasses.

Victoria could sense his familiarity, but it wasn't enough to trigger her memory. Even

now, as she stared at the photo for a long time, she couldn't recall anything. Though unsatisfied, she saved the image before leaving the page and resolved to continue searching. Although his identity is well-protected, occasionally, people may have managed to take covert photos of him, and if I keep looking, I might find a clearer and up close shot.

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However, before she could continue, she heard footsteps outside the door. The footsteps were steady, and she listened attentively for a few seconds before quickly exiting the page and hiding her phone under her pillow. Then, she lay back down, covering herself with the blanket.

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Shortly after she lay down, the door to the room opened, and the aroma of food filled the air. Although she was lying with her back facing the door, she caught a whiff of the delicious aroma wafting through the room and wrinkled her brow.

"Victoria, are you asleep?" Bane's footsteps stopped beside her bed, and he continued, "Would you like to eat something before going to bed?"

However, Victoria pretended to be asleep and didn't respond to his words.

Nonetheless, he appeared unfazed as he approached her with the food and called out to her, "Victoria?"

She was rendered speechless by his response. She didn't want to speak or

acknowledge him. With her eyes closed, she remained motionless.

“Are you pretending to sleep?” Bane seemed to refuse to give up. He asked again, and his breath was getting closer to Victoria.

Sensing him approaching her, she couldn't keep pretending. Hence, she moved backward and opened her eyes, avoiding him. To her surprise, he had bowed down and

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was staring at her. After she moved away, she finally put some distance between them.

What would he have done had I not moved away in time? I shouldn't have had to pretend to be asleep in front of him, and I should have locked the door. Thinking of this, she looked at him with displeasure and huffed, “I want to sleep. What do you want?”

“Eat something before you sleep, okay?”

She glanced at the food he was holding and refused, “I'm not hungry.”

“But I heard from the servants that you barely ate anything today. Shouldn't you take care of your health?”

Victoria suppressed her anger and stated, “I'm not hungry. I want to sleep. Could you please leave?”

“Victoria...” Bane called her name helplessly and urged, “Not eating can cause problems.”

“I'll eat when I want to. You don't need to worry,” she replied stubbornly.

Then, he silently looked at her, seemingly reluctant to leave just like that.

On the other hand, she didn't want to entertain him any longer. So, she turned her back to him, lying down and covering herself with the blanket, saying, "Please leave and make sure to close the door. Don't just come in whenever you want."

"

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Even though this was his villa, her attitude made it seem like he had invaded her territory.

Meanwhile, Victoria's disregard for Bane would normally make him angry, but knowing she would be by his side in the future, he did not dwell on the matter.

After that, he looked at her silently for a moment before finally leaving the room.

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While she waited for the silence to fall, she slipped out of bed and walked barefoot toward the door. Then, she locked it from the inside, and when she heard the lock click, she could heave a sigh of relief. Now that the door was locked, hopefully, he couldn't just walk in whenever he pleased. However, he owns the villa and undoubtedly has a key to this room, so if he wanted to enter, I wouldn't be able to stop him. Yet, by locking the door and not allowing him to enter freely, I am simply expressing my displeasure with him.

In the meantime, it took Ethan nearly three hours to return. The first thing he did when

he came back was to find Victoria.

“How did it go?” As soon as she saw him, she asked anxiously.

After hearing this, he looked at her. He had prepared his words in advance. “Miss Selwyn, he is not in immediate danger for now.” Even though Mr. Cadogan’s condition

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does not appear favorable, the fact that Mr. Morison’s people are in charge indicates that he is not in danger.

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However, she didn’t know if she was being too sensitive or if he had purposefully given her a hint. “For now?” She couldn’t help but ask, “Is his condition quite bad?”

Ethan pursed his lips and sighed helplessly. “It doesn’t look good, but Mr. Morison won’t

let anything happen to him.” After all, if something happened to him, Miss Selwyn wouldn’t stay.

Victoria bit her lip in response. “Not letting anything happen and keeping him safe are two different things.”

He silently agreed with her statement. Indeed, not allowing anything to happen entails not allowing him to die. However, what about other factors? If only his life is preserved, it may indicate that he is still alive but in critical condition. It is still up to Mr. Morison to assess the situation. “If you’re worried, then you should quickly have Mr. Morison’s people send him back,” he suggested.

“What about his people?” she asked.

“What?” Ethan took a moment to realize that Victoria was referring to Alaric’s people who had been looking for him. He shook his head and replied, “There hasn’t been any news for now. I guess they don’t dare to act rashly at the moment.”

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She bit her lower lip and lowered her gaze, looking at her fair palm. “I understand.”

Seeing her in this state, he wanted to say something, but the advice he had in mind was useless at the moment. In the end, he swallowed all his words.

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When dinner was served downstairs, Victoria and Bane were the only ones at the table. The others were standing to the side, waiting on them. Victoria did not like being stared at when eating, so she turned to Bane and said, “Can you tell them to go back to work instead of staring at us?”

Bane was taken aback by the request. A moment later, he told the servants to leave.

Now that there were only two of them in the room, she felt much more at ease.

As she poked at her food with a spoon, she looked up at Bane.

“Do you have something you wish to say to me?” he asked.

“Yes.”

She nodded. Since he brought it up, she decided to seize the chance to voice her thoughts. “Ethan has told me about Alaric’s condition.”

He silently stared at her, waiting for her to continue.

“I’m hoping you can promise me something.”

“What is it?”

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“Let him leave here safe and sound.”

Something flickered in his eyes as his lips tilted up in a smirk. “Safe and sound? I’m afraid that’s impossible.”

“What did you say?” She nearly leaped to her feet when she heard that. “Why not? Are you going back on your word?”

The sight of panic radiating through her made his eyes darken as he tightly pursed his lips.

Despite her amnesia, she was still worried about Alaric.

“Do you like him that much?” he asked.

“What does that have to do with anything? You promised me...”

“When did I promise to let him leave unscathed?”

She stared at him in disbelief.

“You really are going back on your word. If so, can I go back on my word as well?”

Before she even finished speaking, he grabbed her wrist.

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“Vic. I don’t want to break my promises, but I am unable to let him leave unscathed. He was already injured when he came. How am I supposed to reverse that?”

She froze.

“All I can promise is that I’ll ensure he gets treated.”

He sighed. “What were you even thinking? Did you think I’m that untrustworthy? Even without your memories, am I that wicked in your eyes?”

He let sorrow shimmer in his eyes as he turned to her with a hurt look.

For some reason, his gaze made her feel guilty. It felt as though she had done something unspeakably evil.

She turned away, biting her lip.

“It’s not that. I just misunderstood what you meant.”

She then asked, “Do you mean that you will immediately give him the best treatment and send him away?”

He smiled once more when he heard the trap she had laid using her words.

“Yes. I can have the best doctors assigned to him and even have him sent back home, but I have one condition.”

She raised her eyebrows in question.

“What is it?”

“You will be engaged to me.”

The air seemed to be still as she stared at him with a gaze that is slowly turning cold.

“No?”

“What do you think?”

“What do we do then? I will only agree to the promise if you promise to get engaged to me.”

He gently held her hand. “That is my extra condition. You can take some time to think about it. I’m in no hurry.”

That again.

Once more, he was saying he was in no hurry.

He knew just how hurt Alaric was, yet he said there was no rush.

Who was in a rush? The only person who would be in a rush would be Victoria.

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She bit her lip. “What if I say no? Will you send him away?”

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“Of course. I did promise you that. As long as you stay here with me, I can let him leave.

However... I will not be responsible for providing him with the medical equipment and resources he would need to leave.”

She stared into his eyes.

A few long minutes later, she eventually said, “I hear you used to be friends.”

Her statement caught him off guard. He had not expected her to mention that out of nowhere.

“Are you that cruel to your friends?”

His smirk vanished, and he steadily gazed at her.

“Your friend is grievously wounded, yet you ignore it. You are even fooling around with his life. What about the future? Will my life be just a toy to you one day?”

There was a fierce scowl on his face as he instantly objected to her musings.

“That’s impossible! Vic, you know that you are not like the others. You are the most special person in my heart.”

“Is that so?” She coldly chuckled. “You are not a gentleman at all. You like me now, so you say I’m special. What about the future? Will you treat me the way you treat others when you stop loving me?”

His heart skipped in terror.

“What are you saying? I would never act that way to you. You will forever be the most special person in my life.”

“There is no such thing as forever.”

She impatiently continued, “How old are you? Who would believe in forever? Maybe, you think I’m just a naive kid who believes in that.”

He grimaced.

“We are still young, so you can fearlessly claim that I’m special. You’ll even make promises of eternal love. Either way, you lose nothing by saying that. As for whether you end up fulfilling those promises, who would know?”

He calmly gazes into her eyes once more. “If you don’t believe me, you can stay by my side to confirm it for yourself.”

“I don’t love you either. Why would I stay by your side just to confirm something so abstract?”

Her declaration of not loving him was another stab to his heart.

“If this is the way you treat your friends, you’ll end up doing the same to me in the future. Why would you think I would get engaged to you?”

Her words made him panic. |

His goal had been to make her get engaged to him. He did not think it would make her think he was a dangerous man. Now, her eyes were filled with fear whenever she looked at him.

In an instant, he did not know if her fear was an act or her true feelings.

She was a very smart woman. It was not completely impossible for her to put on an act just to fool him.

However, be her terror an act or the truth, he knew that the way she was looking at him was panic-inducing.

Thus, he had no choice but to force himself to remain calm as he reassured her, “Don’t worry about that for now. Let’s have dinner first. We can properly discuss this after our

meal.”

She turned to blankly stare down at the food before letting a peal of laughter burst through her lips.

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“Today, I am greeted with a feast. Would tomorrow end with me lying injured in some random place, waiting for someone to rescue me, to save me?”

He fell silent.

“There’s no point to this dinner now.”

She put down her spoon and bitterly smirked.

“It will all end in tragedy anyway. It’s only a matter of time.”

She then shot to her feet to leave the room.

Despite the arteries throbbing in anger on his forehead, he still called out to stop her from leaving.

“Wait.”

She turned around to coldly stare at him.

“I’ll have someone get him the best medical treatment possible. Are you happy now?”

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Victoria merely looked at Bane with disbelief radiating from her.

“You are all talk and no action. How would I know if you actually do it?”

He immediately pulled out his phone and made a phone call while she watched.

“Fetch Alaric the best medical team around to treat him,” he barked into the phone.

Her eyes remained cold and calm as she watched.

He only turned back to look at her after hanging up.

“Well? Do you believe me now?”

She had not expected things to go so well just by suspecting Bane's character. In their relationship, she was supposed to be the one being manipulated and restricted. She had not imagined that just doubting his action to treat Alaric would make him panic and start to find ways to prove his character.

It was surprising to see how viable that strategy was.

"Your men obey every order you give them, right? Perhaps, you're only putting on an act

for me. It wouldn't be strange," she said.

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Without giving him a chance to do anything, she straightened up and left.

No matter what happened, he would be the one who was panicking in the future.

While she did not know why her doubt was enough to make him panic and continuously try to prove himself...

She did not believe any of it. If he wanted her to believe in his character, he needed to show her the results.

That was the best proof he could have.

On her way back to her room, she noticed Jessie waiting for her by the door.

As Victoria did not like being watched during meals, the servants would split up and focus on their work.

Jessie had been ordered to follow Victoria around ever since the day Victoria selected her. Thus, whenever Victoria was downstairs, Jessie would be waiting for her outside the bedroom.

When Jessie spotted Victoria, she swiftly walked over.

"Have you had dinner already, Miss Selwyn?"

Victoria's mood improved upon seeing Jessie's cheer. She smiled and nodded.

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“Yes, I have.”

“How much have you eaten? Was it enough?”

Jessie scanned her up and down. “You’re too thin, Miss Selwyn. You have to eat more.”

For some reason, Victoria was blanking out and only snapped out of her thoughts after the second time Jessie called out to her.

“What?”

“Nothing. You seem to have been lost in your thoughts. I’ve been calling your name several times now.”

Soon after Jessie said that, Victoria was visibly lost in her thoughts again.

Upon seeing that, Jessie could not resist sighing.

Victoria had way too much on her mind.

Jessie did not interrupt Victoria’s train of thought and just waited for Victoria to snap out of her thoughts.

After a while, Victoria finally snapped back to reality. However, the first thing she said was, “Where is Ethan right now?”

“I don’t know, but I could ask around for you if you’re looking for him?” Jessie responded.

“Yes, please. Could you please tell him I need to talk to him?”

“Very well, Miss Selwyn. I’ll get on it right away.”

As usual, Ethan soon came to her. The moment Victoria spotted him, she immediately told him all about what had happened just now.

“Are you asking me to check whether it was the truth?”

It did not take long for Ethan to realize what she wanted.

She nodded. "You are the only one I can trust here. Can you help me look into this and see if they are really hiring the best medical team around?"

He pursed his lips and nodded. "I understand."

He had only been to where Alaric was being held once, and that was only with Bane's permission to ensure that Alaric was not going to die.

That place...

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He squinted his eyes. It would be very hard for him to go back in unless Bane gave him permission once more.

It seemed like it was time to scheme.

As he thought about it, his phone suddenly buzzed. He pulled it out to find a message from Bane. 'Come here, he messaged.

Ever since Victoria was returned to Bane's side, he had rarely been summoned by Bane .

That was because he was tasked with protecting Victoria. Thus, it was rare to be summoned.

If he were ever summoned, it would definitely be about Victoria.

Did Bane summon him for what she just asked him to do?

He swiftly went over to Bane.

As he expected, Bane immediately told him about what happened and had him follow up on the order so that there was confirmation.

When Ethan heard that Bane actually hired a medical team for Alaric, he pursed his lips and could not resist asking, "Are you doing this because you're worried about being misunderstood by Miss Selwyn or is it because you used to be his friend and cannot bear to be that vicious?"

Bane's hands froze and he turned to shoot Ethan with a spine-chilling glare.

"Your task is to report the outcome to her, not to question me on my decisions."

"I merely want to know if you have ever regretted what you're doing."

Bane coldly stared at Ethan.

There was not an ounce of warmth on Bane's face, nor did he look like a gentle spirit anymore.

"Get out."

Ethan silently glanced at him and said, "You're not past the point of no return yet."

He then left the room after finishing his sentence.

Bane remained where he was, silently staring at a spot in the room with dark eyes. His lips were tightly pressed together as his mind wandered.

It was a very, very long time before he finally stood up and walked out of the darkness.

The next day, Ethan reported back to Victoria.

"I checked it out last night. Mr. Morison had hired the best medical team to treat Mr. Cadogan. His condition is currently stable."

While she did not remember Alaric, the news that he was safe still filled her heart with joy.

"Really?"

Bane was not lying?

Ethan nodded. "Yes. After a few more days, he should be able to leave."

Suddenly, a thought struck her. "Is he willing to leave?"

He paused. "He has been unconscious the entire time. He hasn't woken up until now."

Finally, Victoria understood that the person who saved her had surely not worked alone.

If he were awake, he would surely have done something by now.

It seemed like he had been unconscious the entire time.

To be out so long...

She looked up at Ethan. "Have you asked the doctors what his condition is? Why has he

been unconscious for so long? Is he suffering from brain damage?"

It was clear he did not, so he only replied, "If I can head back tomorrow, I'll ask them for you."

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Bane was a man of his word. Ethan could return to where Alaric was being kept the very next day. After questioning the doctors about Alaric's condition, he returned to Victoria with the news.

Victoria had finally stopped worrying the moment she knew Alaric was doing okay.

The next question she had was when Bane would be sending Alaric home.

However, when Ethan met her at the bottom of the steps, he stared at her in hesitation with words evidently lingering on the tip of his tongue.

"Miss Selwyn."

Victoria stopped and turned to look at him.

"You have something to say?"

He silently stared at her for a while. His lips twitched, but no words were spoken.

"Mr. Hudson, you are the only person I can trust here. If you don't tell me anything, then it means I'll be all alone here."

"What is your plan for the future, Miss Selwyn? I'm just curious," he eventually said.

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The future?

The question made her freeze.

“If Mr. Cadogan does leave here safe and sound, are you really going to stay by Mr. Morison’s side?”

She pursed her lips. Bane was not her cup of tea at all, so there was no way she would stay by his side.

However, she couldn’t think of a better solution to the situation. Her task at hand was to get Alaric out of there.

As for herself...

It would be easier to act if she were alone.

When she did not respond, he continued, “While I don’t know what you will do in the future, can you please promise me one thing?”

“What is it?”

“Mr. Morison might have done many terrible things, but I hope... I don’t know what will happen, but if something does change, I hope you’ll give him the chance to turn over a new leaf.”

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There was no way for her to miss what he meant then.

He was afraid she would call the police once Alaric was gone, so he was hoping she could have mercy on Bane when that happened.

Victoria pursed her lips and kept quiet.

“Oh, and about your memories, let me tell you a tale.”

In hopes of getting her to sympathize with Bane, Ethan told her about what happened to Bane as a child, including the suicide of his mother.

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“If possible, you could perhaps turn your attention to his psychological issues. You used to be friends with him, and he only turned out like this because he could not have you. Still, he never once hurt you. Of that, I can assure you.”

His words rang with sincerity, moving her.

She sighed. “I know. Don’t worry. I’ll do that.”

Her promise finally pacified him enough for him to leave.

She was drowning in her thoughts once more after his departure.

Frankly speaking, she did not need Ethan’s reminder. She knew Bane was very good to

her. From the moment she woke up, he had been influenced by every word she said. He

was always so concerned about how well her appetite was.

It was clear that he truly cared for her.

However, he was also a very vicious man when it came to Alaric.

They used to be friends, yet Bane was capable of doing that to Alaric. Who knew if he would do the same to her in the future?

After heading downstairs, she spotted Bane waiting for her at the dining table. There was a gentle smile hanging on his lips. The light shining down from above also made his eyes look unusually calm and tender.

The servants were all gone, so he was the only person in the living room, waiting for her.

If she was not biologically repulsed by him, she sometimes thought they could truly be together.

What a pity...

“You’re here. I had the cooks prepare a few of your favorite dishes. Try some?” he asked.

As soon as she walked into the room, he lovingly pulled out a chair for her and served her. He did everything possible to make her feel at home and loved.

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She watched as he bustled about and waited until he sat back down at the table before having a few spoonful *of* the food he served.

He did not hurry to start his meal either. Instead, he calmly watched her eat before saying in an affectionate tone, “Did Ethan tell you about the situation? Do you believe me now that I won’t treat you the same way?”

She did not reply to his question and continued eating.

Her lack of response made him cautiously ask, “Did he not tell you anything?”

Finally, she turned to look at him.

“He did, but what does it matter? Alaric is still stuck in your hands. You can do anything you want to him. Who would know?”

“You still do not trust me.”

There was a hurt look on his face. “Even after all I’ve done, you still would not believe me.”

“Yes. So, can you send him home?”

“Of course. I made you a promise.”

“Let’s revisit the topic after you send him safely home.”

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He did not say anything about her request. Instead, he frowned as he watched her stop

eating after just a few more mouthfuls.

“Eat more, Vic.”

“I can’t.”

She then placed her spoon down and walked out of the room.

As he watched her go, realization finally dawned on him. They had a serious problem at hand.

In the days since her arrival, the amount of food she had consumed was exceedingly small.

At first, he had assumed she was feeling sick. Her lack of appetite was the only reason she did not eat anything. Thus, he had the cooks prepare all sorts of dishes for her, even ensuring that every dish served would be her favorite.

Still, she did not like a single bite of food she had taken throughout her stay. Even though the table was filled with her favorite foods, she did not eat more.

Thus, he was now wondering if she was not eating because she was angry at him or if it was actually because she did not feel like eating.

If it were the former, it would be fine. He could find ways to pacify her and get her to eat more.

What if it was the latter?

What was her reason for the lack of appetite? Had she not recovered from her time at the hospital?

At the thought of that possibility, he immediately made a phone call. “Have the doctor come over this evening.”

It was time for her to get a medical checkup. It would not do to delay any needed medical treatment.

He then summoned Jessie.

“Has her eating habits changed at all during the past few days?” he asked.

After some thought, she nodded.

“Miss Selwyn seems to eat exceptionally little. She has also been visibly losing weight. She seems so haggard.”

He scowled.

“Mr. Morison, there is an old classmate of mine who also looked like this. When she later went to the doctor, she was diagnosed with...”

“What was she diagnosed with?”

“She might have an eating disorder.”

An eating disorder?

Bane narrowed his eyes.

Why would Victoria develop an eating disorder out of nowhere?

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The doctor soon arrived.

Victoria had been getting ready for bed then. When she heard that a doctor was here to see her, she froze in shock before frowning.

“Why?” she asked.

Jessie shook her head. “I don’t know. I think it’s a health checkup.”

Victoria was fine, though. Why did they need to check on her?

As she did not understand the need, she rejected the checkup.

When Jessie left to tell them of her decision, Bane personally came into the room to convince her.

“It’s only going to be a health checkup, Vic. Only a few questions. It won’t take much

time. Please?”

Hostility lurked in Victoria’s eyes. “Just what do you want?”

“I don’t want anything. I’m just worried about you. After all, you were hospitalized. This is just a simple follow–up check.”

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She fell silent upon hearing him mention her time at the hospital.

Well, if it was simply a follow–up after her hospitalization, then should she not return to the hospital for it?

Why would the doctor come to her instead?

Seeing her doubt, he continued, “The weather’s turning cold. It was not easy for him to come all the way here, and he has been waiting for you for so long. It’s only a normal health checkup and a few questions. Why don’t we let him come in?”

The added information worked on her.

After a moment of silence, she finally nodded. “Okay.”

She had expected a Maulinian doctor. To her surprise, it was an Anolian. Truth be told, he introduced himself as a Corinthian.

The world always felt friendlier whenever one bumped into a fellow countryman in a foreign nation.

It was just like when she found out that Jessie used to live in the same city as she did.

As it was a checkup, Bane waited at a distance.

The first thing the doctor did was to check her pulse. Surprised once more, she asked,
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“Do you always check a patient’s pulse?”

The doctor smiled and nodded. “Of course. One of the key principles of traditional

medicine is observation.”

Victoria pursed her lips. She had never thought she would bump into a traditional Corynthean medicine practitioner.

The look on his face was so solemn that everyone was too afraid to make a single sound that might even disturb him.

She did not know how much time passed before he eventually asked, “How well have you been sleeping?”

After a pause for thought, she said, “Not bad.”

“What do you mean by that? Are you sleeping more or less? Are you able to fall asleep easily?”

“I do fall asleep, and I sleep quite a lot.”

Every single day, she would either be thinking about her situation or wandering around in a drowsy, half-asleep state.

While she did not do anything that took a lot of effort, she was always able to fall asleep due to how exhausted she felt.

However, her sleep was not that deep. She rarely dreamed and constantly felt like she was stuck in a haze as though she had been sleeping for a very long time.

He glanced at her and asked, “Stick out your tongue for me.”

She blinked at him before sticking her tongue out.

Victoria’s tongue was bright pink and shined in the light. It did not look dull or bruised between her bright white teeth.

When Bane saw that, a light flashed in his eyes, and he uneasily looked away.

However, within a few moments, he could not resist looking at her once more. He silently watched with eyes full of longing.

The hands hanging down by his side clenched and loosened repeatedly.

At that moment, his desire for her intensified.

The strange checkup confused her. However, the doctor was so kind and patient that she just went along with it.

He even asked a lot of boring questions that made her wonder if he was there to chat with her instead of checking on her health.

During the checkup, she even glanced at Bane. In the back of her mind, she thought he

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would never have been able to accept this kind of attitude from the doctor.

To her surprise, he merely smiled gently at her. He had not once questioned the doctor's methods.

The checkup took around 30 minutes.

Everyone then headed out, leaving her alone in her room.

Outside her room, Bane promptly asked, "Well? What's her condition?"

After a moment of silence, the doctor replied, "What's the source of her psychological distress?"

He specifically used a medical term, which stunned Bane. "Psychological distress?"

"Physically, she seems fine. The issue is entirely in her lifestyle. For example, the most obvious issues are her eating and sleeping habits."

Bane had no retort for that. He did not know much about her sleep schedule, but he had seen the way she ate.

"I didn't talk to her that much today, afraid that she might end up refusing my questions," the doctor said.

He then instructed Bane on what to do and what was happening. After prescribing a

few pills that would ensure a healthier appetite and better sleep, the doctor left.

Bane had the servants lead the doctor out while he remained standing there with the pack of pills in his hands.

Psychological distress?

She had lost her memories, right?

Why would she be in psychological distress?

What would she be in distress about? Was it her lost memories or the man stuck in bed?

Upon thinking about the man stuck in bed and unconscious, Bane's eyes darkened. If not for Victoria, he could have continued to be Alaric's friend.

After all, they had been great friends.

Unfortunately, if they were friends, Bane would never be able to have Victoria. If he wanted Victoria for himself, then his only option was to be Alaric's enemy.

Not long after the doctor's departure, Bane entered the room with some pills and a glass of warm water. He then gestured for her to take them.

She frowned at the white pills in his palm. "Am I sick?" she asked.

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His lips parted in a faint smile. "You're not sick. These are just a few pills to help you sleep."

That only made her frown and protest against taking those pills even more. "I do not need these. I sleep well enough."

She even thought she slept a little too much. How could they feed her sleeping pills?

Would she ever wake up again if she took them?

"That's not it," Bane explained. "The doctor merely prescribed you a few calming pills

that will increase your sleep quality since you haven't been sleeping well."

Improve her sleep quality? Victoria glanced down at the pills once more and asked,

"What about the other pill? Are both of them sleeping pills?"

"This is for your stomach." He explained everything in clear terms and did not lie to her for fear that she would continue to object to pills. "You haven't been eating much. Have you noticed? Since you might feel some discomfort in your digestive system, he prescribed you a pill for that as well."

She did not realize how little she ate. Most of the time, she did not pay attention to her food. Her time was mostly spent sleeping and brooding about her memories or Alaric.

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