

Departure with a Belly Chapter 541

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Chapter 541 We Won't Be Going Back Today

Perhaps many thought that Summer was not ambitious enough, but she thought the same in the past. She always felt that people had to jump out of their comfort zones to make it big in life.

Yet, in recent years, she truly felt that her heart had turned weary.

Maybe because she had walked too far and gotten exhausted, she wanted to stop and rest for now. More importantly, she was diligent at work and had worked on tons of projects with Erik. She got plenty of bonuses, and her salary was high enough that she had accumulated a lot in savings over the years.

If she could not find a suitable job once she returned, she could just open up a small shop near her parents' place.

It seemed like a nice idea now that she thought about it.

Summer did not mention her private matters, so Erik did not pursue them. Instead, he focused on another aspect. "Are you planning to return to your hometown?"

"Yeah, back home."

He moved his lips as if he was about to say more, but at that moment, Audrey came in with the coffee. "Mr. Ludson, here's your

coffee."

Hence, he swallowed the words he was about to say. The coffee was placed on the desk, and he never touched it, even after the two had finished their report.

When Summer took Audrey's hand and led her out of the office, Audrey could not help but ask, "Summer, does Mr. Ludson not like the coffee I made for him? I think he never even took a sip of it."

It was genuinely awkward. Summer never thought Erik would order someone to make coffee for him only to leave it untouched by the end of the meeting. What was he even thinking? Still, she comforted Audrey and said, "Maybe the coffee was freshly made, and he didn't want to burn himself, so he decided to let it cool before drinking it."

Audrey responded, "I see. I thought there was something wrong with the way I made it."

"If there were, he would have to try it before judging if it suited his tastes. He didn't even take a sip, so how

could he know if he liked it?"

"Oh, yeah. You're right, Summer." Audrey smiled warmly at her.

When Summer saw Audrey like that, she could not help but sigh in her heart. Audrey looked innocent and sensitive, so if she had to endure getting exploited by the devil, would she be able to survive that?

At that thought, Summer said, "You don't have to do anything for the rest of the day. Read the manual of experiences I gave you just now. I've compiled a list of things you should and shouldn't do, so have a look at it first."

"Okay."

Perhaps Audrey would not want this position after reading those strict requirements. If that was the case, they could get someone else to replace her, and Summer would not have to waste that much time in between then.

As of now, she was extremely eager to go home.

13:48, Wed,

The next day, Victoria woke up early in the morning. The sky was dark outside, and there was not much light around. She drew the curtains only to find out that it was raining.

“It’s pouring out there. Looks like we can’t go back for now.”

Dark heavy clouds weighed upon the sky outside, almost looming over the entire city. A storm was brewing, and the color of the sky induced anxiety in pedestrians.

After looking at it for a while, she pulled the curtains together and turned around to meet Alaric’s gaze. She did not say much when she faced him. Instead, she said, “It’s about time to change the bandages for your wound.”

“Yeah.”

When Victoria applied the ointment, she noticed that his wound was getting better compared to the day before. By the looks of it, the recuperation for the past few days had worked. “In another few days, your wound won’t have to be dressed twice per day. We can reduce it to once.”

“Yes, thanks to you, my wound is recovering quickly.”

She placed the remaining tools inside the medicine kit. “The ointment is working, that’s all.”

“The ointment helped a lot, but your skills are also important.”

She pursed her lips and said, “I wonder how long this rain will go on.”

When Alaric heard that, he looked out the window. “I’m not sure, but judging by the situation, it’s not gonna stop soon.”

When he woke up this morning, he still had not received her answer of the day. She said yesterday that they would leave today, but when they woke up this morning, they were hindered by rain.

There was silence between the two for a moment. They seemed to know what the other was thinking but did

not voice it.

After a while, Victoria finally said, "Let's go downstairs for breakfast, shall we?"

"Okay."

The two silently went downstairs and had breakfast together. After the meal, the rain still had not stopped. The storm seemed to be venting as it poured without regard for anyone else.

They stayed in a hotel, so they did not need to worry; they just could not go out for the time being. After breakfast, the two went back to their room. Victoria flopped onto the couch and started fiddling with her

phone.

When they were having breakfast earlier, the employees under Alaric delivered the phone she used in the past. As soon as she took the phone, she had an extremely familiar feeling about it. She did not even have to ask more questions as she plugged it in and keyed in the password based on muscle memory.

At the side, Alaric silently watched Victoria's movements. When he saw her inputting the password, he could not help pursing his lips.

There were still many things her body remembered.

After gaining access to the phone, she tapped on a few spots, finally experiencing the feeling of recovering something lost. A smile subconsciously graced her lips. "How did you find this?"

“Mr. Hudson.” Alaric explained, “He asked someone to deliver it this morning. He probably just remembered.”

“This morning?” Victoria was surprised. “But it’s raining so heavily…”

“Yes, it was delivered in the rain. The guy still hasn’t left.’

She felt guilty when she thought about the delivery man working under the heavy rain. After all, it was too dangerous to go out in the rain.

When he saw her expression, he knew that she was worried. “Don’t overthink it. If you’re worried he won’t be safe going out in the rain, just tell him to head back later. The rain is too heavy right now, and the roads are flooded. The guy probably has to wait until the rain stops to leave, anyway.”

When Victoria heard that, she finally sighed in relief. “Okay.”

However, the rain still had not stopped even when it was noon. The drains under the roads started to flood and rose as high as one’s knees. The TV station also sent out all sorts of alerts, and every station was reporting news of this downpour.

Simultaneously, their phones were filled with all kinds of news alerts. Due to the heavy rainfall, a road was blocked by a landslide, and some cars were soaked in water. The news advised people to stay home and be careful if they had to go out.

Alaric read the alerts, then looked outside at the rain. “Looks like we won’t be going back today.”

Victoria fell silent, unsure of what she was feeling. She had planned to return this morning right after they woke up so that this incident would not drag on forever.

Unexpectedly... Fate had other ideas.

Chapter 542 Don’t Be a Fool Again

At that thought, Victoria could not help but glare at Alaric. “It’s all your fault.”

“Huh?” He was confused.

“I said to go back yesterday. If we had left then, we wouldn’t be trapped here today.”

At her words, he silently looked at her for a while. “Maybe it’s fate?”

“What?”

“Allowing you to see him again.”

This statement silenced her once again. She remained quiet for a long time before asking, “Why are you so persistent in making me see him?” Isn’t he jealous? Shouldn’t he feel jealous about it? Why does he keep suggesting the two of us meet? She did not quite understand.

“You’ll find peace of mind only after seeing him.” That was his answer to her question.

When Victoria heard that, she finally understood Alaric’s intention. So, that’s why he’s so persistent about making us meet. He’s afraid that if I don’t see him, I will continue worrying about it after returning. Instead of letting me reminisce about Bane and making a deeper impression of him, it will be better to let me meet him and ensure he’s fine. After that, I can go on with my life.

Of course, that was Alaric’s idea, but the other man, Bane, clearly had a different thought. He did not want to

see her, simply hoping she would keep missing him.

Although Alaric remained clueless about what the purpose of Bane’s compromise was, he ultimately promised not to lay a hand on Victoria again. However, it seemed like he still had other motives— he wanted her to remember him forever, even if she could not see him.

The thought of her woman always remembering Bane for the rest of their lives was like a thorn in Alaric’s heart.

After understanding Alaric’s intention, Victoria did not resist anymore and simply said, “But he doesn’t want to

see me.”

“Let’s try again. If he doesn’t want to, we’ll find another opportunity next time.”

At his words, she could only nod. That’s the only option for now. “By the way, can you give your mother a call and see if it’s raining over there at her place?” she quickly voiced her thoughts.

“Okay.” Immediately, he understood that she was worried about Mary and the children being affected by the rainstorm, so he made a call swiftly, putting it on speaker.

When she found out it was sunny there with no rain, she breathed a sigh of relief. Thank goodness. If it’s also raining there, I’ll be extra worried about their outing in such weather.

After the safety of her family was confirmed, Victoria had nothing to do. The rain outside had already subsided, changing from a heavy downpour to a drizzle. She had initially wanted to rest on the couch, but she was afraid of falling asleep accidentally. If Alaric finds out I fell asleep, he will carry me to the bed. His wound has just healed. I can’t let it reopen.

After careful consideration, she got up and went to the bedroom to rest while instructing Alaric not to wander around by staying put to recuperate. Hearing that, he caressed the back of her head. “Okay, stop worrying about me. Have I ever disobeyed you these past few days? I will rest if you tell me to. I won’t do anything else for sure.”

As soon as he confirmed that Victoria went to sleep, he asked his subordinate to bring his laptop to the study so he could work. I’ve neglected a lot of work these days. The losses are... Never mind. I don’t even want to calculate that. Having Victoria and the children by my side now is my greatest wealth. But if I want to give them a better life ahead, I can’t neglect work anymore.

Since his injuries had healed to some extent, he took this opportunity to quickly handle some work while she was asleep. In the quiet study, only the sound of the laptop running could be heard.

When Victoria woke up, the rain had already stopped, and the traffic on the roads had improved with the help of many traffic police. However, there were still some areas with stagnant water.

After her conversation with Alaric earlier, she was in no hurry to head back anymore. I’ve promised Nicole to be back within five days at the latest anyway, and today is only the second day. If Alaric is worried that I can’t find

peace

of mind if I don’t meet Bane, then I’ll have to meet him within these few days.

She then leaned back on the bed, flipping through her phone. There were several chat records on her phone, and the highest one was with her best friend, Summer. After that, she also entered her Facebook profile to see past photos she had shared.

When she saw a photo of Nicole, Nathan, and herself together, a warm affection filled her eyes. Fortunately, I'm alive; otherwise, I wouldn't have known I had given birth to these two adorable babies.

Since she had almost died once, she cherished them even more. She scrolled through her posts, realizing she did not post very often. Most of her posts were pictures of the kids enjoying themselves outside. However, as she continued scrolling, she stumbled upon a private post. It gave her pause, but she clicked on it nonetheless.

Soon, she realized the post was set to be visible to herself only. The content read, 'Don't be a fool again, and don't repeat the same mistakes.' When she saw that, her heart seemed to have rippled as if some emotions had been triggered.

As she stared at the post, the affection in her eyes gradually faded, replaced by confusion. What does this mean? Don't be a fool again? Don't repeat the same mistakes? What mistakes?

Suddenly, the date of the post caught her attention. It was actually from this year, a few months ago. The realization of the recent timeline triggered a sense of unease within her. She continued scrolling down her profile, and the more she looked, the more shocked she became. In all the posts she shared, there was not a single one related to Alaric. He never appeared in any photos, which struck her as strange.

Understandably, I didn't post any photos of Bane because we didn't have a normal relationship. So, with my personality, I wouldn't post his pictures. But what about Alaric? He's Nicole and Nathan's father, but why didn't I post a single photo of him? And that private post visible only to myself is a caution to me. What exactly was I cautioning myself against?

She could not remember anything now. Although she had suspected there was a past between her and Bane due to the love triangle, this private post visible only to herself made her thoughts more solemn.

Chapter 543 What Should I Do?

Lost in thought, she heard the doorknob gently turn, and Alaric entered the room the next moment. When their eyes met, he was momentarily taken aback. He likely had not

anticipated Victoria waking up so early and staying in the room, yet there she was, seated on the bed with her phone.

After having closed the door behind him, he approached the bed and sat on its edge. "Why didn't you tell me you're awake?" As he noticed her holding the phone with a somewhat uneasy expression, his expression changed subtly. "What are you looking at?"

"Nothing," she responded instinctively, placing the phone beside the pillow. Seizing the opportunity, she asked first. "I feel like I've been asleep for a while. You haven't been wandering around during that time, have you?"

Speechless, Alaric retorted, "Do you think of me as a child?" Unable to resist, he reached out and pinched Victoria's nose. "Besides, you're right here. Where else would I go?"

The warm touch on her nose left her stunned. She gazed at the handsome features before her, almost blurting out a question about their past and what had transpired between them. However, as the words reached her

lips, she hesitated and decided to hold them back.

With the situation appearing complicated and her incomplete memories, she realized that any questions she asked would only provide her with a one-sided perspective. Moreover, how could she expect to make a decision that suited herself based on such a one-sided perspective?

Forget it. It's better not to ask. I'll do my best to regain my memories afterward. With this thought in mind, Victoria secretly made a firm decision. Once she had dealt with the matters at hand, she would seek assistance from Summer when she had the opportunity to meet her.

Observing the unspoken words reflected in her expression, Alaric contemplated whether to inquire about them. However, after careful consideration, he decided to withhold his question. He believed that if there were something she desired to share, she would do so at the appropriate moment.

"Are you feeling hungry? Would you like to have some room service here?"

Though she would have preferred not to mention it, his reminder made her realize that she was indeed hungry and developed a craving for food.

She nodded. "Okay."

Lately, her appetite had noticeably improved, and she gradually increased her food intake.

“Let’s go.” When Victoria prepared to get up with the support of her hand, Alaric intended to hold her phone on her behalf. However, she swiftly withdrew the phone before his hand could reach it.

Her movements were swift, as if apprehensive about something happening to her phone. After this action,

both instinctively froze.

“Sorry, I just...” She was momentarily unsure of how to explain to him.

She thought he would be concerned about the matter, but to her surprise, he remained silent for a moment and said, “You can keep your phone. Don’t worry. I’ve returned it to you now. No one else is gonna take it away anymore.”

Perplexed, Victoria stared at Alaric. Is he genuinely clueless, or is he pretending?

13:49 Wed, 19 Jul

“Let’s have our meal first.” He could sense that something was off with her but could not pinpoint the source of her unease. However, since it was mealtime and she was hungry, he decided not to delve into the matter yet. Concerned about her well-being, he simply wanted her to eat without delay.

She was unaware of his thoughts, and even if he had something to say, he had to wait until after the meal.

Wearing slippers and a coat, she followed him to the dining room. As they passed the study, she noticed the light was on and unexpectedly came to a halt. “Did you use the study?”

As they were staying in an upscale presidential suite, it was only natural for the hotel to provide facilities such

as a study.

Before entering the room, Victoria vividly recalled that the study’s light was turned off, but it was now switched on. This could only mean that Alaric had used it.

Sure enough, after she asked, the person walking in front of her paused and replied, “Yes, I used it for a short

while.”

Since she had already discovered it, denying it now would only increase her doubts about him. “A short while?” She narrowed her eyes warily. “Are you referring to the time when I was asleep?”

Stunned, he realized he was exposed.

“Alaric, were you working?”

Helpless, he could only sigh inwardly before answering, “Yes, I was working, but it could also be interpreted as a way to relax. I was just sitting on the chair, working with my laptop.” As he said that, he recalled something and added, “I didn’t move around recklessly or anything like that.”

Victoria remained silent. She pursed her lips and suddenly reached out to lift his coat. “Let me check your

wound...”

“Victoria.” He was taken aback by her sudden action as he stood there momentarily stunned, unable to react in time as she swiftly lifted his coat.

Realizing her intentions, he did not intervene and stood still, letting her examine him. As expected, she meticulously inspected his wounds after lifting his coat. Finding the bandages clean and devoid of any bloodstains, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Observing her expression, Alaric could not help but chuckle and tease Victoria. “You’re concerned about me, aren’t you?”

However, she was not in the mood to joke with him. When she looked up, there was a hint of displeasure in her eyes. “You have the mood to tease me, do you? You’re the one who’s injured and should take your rest seriously. It’s only been a few days, so why can’t you refrain from working even for a little while?”

Faced with her questioning, he could only helplessly respond, “I was just taking care of some work. Besides, I didn’t engage in any frivolous activities, did I?”

“The state of rest and work is different. Otherwise, why do you think patients need rest? Can it truly be considered resting if you’re working while resting?”

“Okay, okay, okay.” Alaric realized he could not argue with Victoria, especially since he did not want to anger her. So, after just a few exchanges, he started to give in. “I was wrong. I promise it won’t happen again.”

After hearing his sincere apology, she could not stay angry with him and roasted him. “You’re always like this, apologizing at the right time but repeating the same mistakes.”

He wrapped his arms around her waist and smiled. “I assure you that I won’t repeat the same mistake.”

“Nonsense.” Victoria anticipated that if she were to catch him again, he would repeat his cycle of apologizing and seeking forgiveness. She felt like she had already deciphered his pattern.

“Well, let’s just call it nonsense. Darling, are you hungry? Shall we eat first? The room service should be arriving soon.”

Checking the wound and engaging in conversation with each other consumed some time.

During the meal, Alaric attentively catered to Victoria, selecting dishes she favored and those that were easily digestible. “Take your time and enjoy your meal. It’s just the two of us, so eat to your heart’s content.”

As she witnessed his considerate gestures, she recalled the post she had made on Facebook, pondering whether it had any connection to him. If it’s related to him, then... What should I do?

Chapter 544 To See or Not to See?

Their current situation was not as clear-cut as being together or apart, as their child and parents were involved.

“What’s wrong?” Alaric’s voice snapped Victoria back to reality. She regained her composure and noticed him looking at her with concern. “Are you full?”

In actuality, she had not eaten much. It was evident that her appetite was not great that day. She had only managed to eat a little and did not feel like having more. Since he inquired, she nodded in agreement. “Yes, I’m full.”

He noticed that she had barely touched her food and was concerned. “How about a few more bites?”

“Okay.” Not feeling nauseous, Victoria obliged and took a few more bites of her meal.

After that, she set her fork down, no longer desiring to eat. Noticing her loss of appetite, Alaric also put down his utensils. “What’s wrong with you today? Are you feeling down? Or is something on your mind?”

She shook her head. “I’m not feeling down. It’s just that...”

She looked at the person before her, hesitating whether to speak her mind. When the words reached her lips, she could not utter a single word. After all, it was just a Facebook post.

Victoria had lost her memory; what she saw now was merely a fragment of the whole picture. If she were to bring up this matter, he would likely provide explanations, but she still did not know how to navigate through it

all.

She concluded that it might be best to disregard the matter for now and prioritize her efforts in regaining her

lost memories.

Not hearing a response from her, Alaric grew anxious and took the initiative to ask, "Just what?"

She was slightly startled as he seemed to pick up on her emotions. If she denied it now, it might lead him to overthink the situation. So, she could only apologize and say, "I'm sorry, but I don't want to discuss these

matters at the moment."

This response caught him off guard, as he had assumed that Victoria did not want to discuss it and would simply say she was okay. He had not anticipated her straightforward refusal to engage in conversation about

the matter.

Since it had reached this point, he realized that pressing further with questions would only increase the

pressure on her.

Thinking about this, Alaric pursed his lips and gently said, "Alright, if you don't want to talk about it for now, let's leave it be. But if you can't figure it out, tell me. It's always better to share your troubles rather than keeping them to yourself."

As his respect and understanding brought a sense of relief and ease to her, she agreed. "Okay."

After a night, the accumulated water had receded, and the sun emerged from behind the clouds, casting its light upon the world as if the heavy rain from the previous day had never occurred.

The traffic on the roads returned to its usual flow.

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Around 10.00AM, Victoria and Alaric prepared to set out with their luggage securely placed in the trunk. She had expressed to him the previous night that this would be their last attempt.

If he still refused to meet with her, she would return.

It was her decision, and Alaric did not interfere. He simply agreed after listening to her.

When she did not show up yesterday due to the heavy rain, Ethan did not find it strange. After all, he would have been concerned if she had braved such weather to come. Aside from his concerns, someone else appeared even more anxious than him. From the moment they woke up and discovered the incessant heavy rain, that person had been visibly restless inside the house.

Ultimately, he suggested, "Miss Selwyn's phone is still here. How about I arrange for someone to deliver it?"

Little did

he know that Bane sneered on the spot upon hearing his words. "Deliver it? How do you know if she's still there or not? If you wanted to return her phone, why didn't you do it yesterday?"

Ethan ignored the second half of Bane's sentence and responded directly, "She's staying in a nearby hotel. We'll find out if she's there once we deliver it."

After that, Bane remained silent.

The

person assigned to deliver the phone left, but there was no response for a long time. When it took so long that Bane started to believe the phone was not delivered, Ethan received a message. "They said the phone has been delivered, but he's taking a break there for now due to the heavy rain."

Bane pursed his lips and remained silent.

"Based on what I gathered from his words, the rain is too heavy, and Miss Selwyn and the others are unable to leave temporarily."

At that, a mocking curve appeared at the corner of Bane's lips. "Why should I care? Do you think informing me about such trivial matters is necessary?" With that, he went straight into the room.

Ethan stood in place and could sense that Bane's mood had improved slightly. He sighed, feeling even more

sorrowful in his heart.

Just as if it were not raining today, they should have already arrived according to the scheduled time. However, by 10.00AM, they were still nowhere to be seen. He could sense Bane's impatience, but Bane remained remarkably patient and refrained from expressing his frustrations.

As the phone had already been delivered and Ethan had no other tasks to attend to at the moment, he could

only wait alongside Bane.

After a while, just as he was about to return to the room, he heard Ethan call out to him, "Mr. Morison."

Hearing that, Bane paused in his steps and turned his head unhappily to look at him. That gaze was cold and filled with resentment. "What is it?"

"Are you waiting for Miss Selwyn?"

"Are you waiting for Miss Selwyn?"

Bane responded, "No. Who told you I was waiting for her?"

Ethan did not refute either and continued to ask, "If Miss Selwyn arrives later, will you meet with her?"

Bane furrowed his brow. "Why are you asking this?"

"This will determine whether I should bring her to meet you later."

After a brief pause, Bane finally replied, "She won't come."

Ethan asked, "What if she does?"

What he received in response to his question was silence.

"Will you see her?"

Still silence.

At that moment, a car horn came from outside the window. Bane's expression shifted slightly at the sound of the horn, and his thin lips tightened into a straight line.

Ethan fixed his gaze on his face, capturing every subtle expression without missing a beat. After a moment, he curled up his lips. "Looks like Miss Selwyn has arrived. Mr. Morison, please answer me—will you see her?"

Just one day had passed, but it felt as though a significant amount of time had elapsed when Victoria reappeared here.

After the person in front saw her, he went upstairs to find Ethan. Usually, they would have waited for them next door, but Victoria politely declined today and expressed her intention to stay outside for updates.

When Ethan came downstairs, he noticed her standing a short distance from the front door. Observing her expression and gaze, he could anticipate what was unfolding and sighed as he approached her. "Miss Selwyn."

"Mr. Hudson." She greeted him with a faint smile. "We meet again. You probably already know why I'm here."

He nodded in response. "Well, it's regrettable, but Mr. Morison remains unwilling to see you."

It was an expected answer, and Victoria no longer found it strange or disappointing. Meeting Ethan's gaze, she simply nodded silently. "Okay, I understand."

Chapter 545 Never Remembering Him Again

Ethan carefully examined her and noticed she appeared calm, showing no surprise at the outcome he had just mentioned. It seemed she had anticipated this result long before. Looking at her in this state, he suddenly had a bad feeling. Sure enough, as soon as a thought crossed his mind, it quickly became a reality.

"Well, if he still refuses to see me, I won't insist." Victoria smiled faintly at him and continued, "Please convey a message to him for me. He must take good care of himself."

He was speechless.

"By the way, Ethan, I still remember the favor you did for me. If you need any help in the future, be sure to let me know."

Initially, he thought she would continue discussing matters related to Bane, but to his surprise, her words suddenly shifted to himself. "Miss Selwyn, I did help you out, but you don't need to hold to it. I had selfish motives as well."

Where else could he find such a patron if Bane fell from power? He could only continue working under Bane's command as long as he remained in power, right?

Seeing that Ethan was trying to downplay his help, Victoria smiled faintly and remained silent. She understood that he did not want to put too much pressure on himself and that his so-called ulterior motives were insignificant compared to his safety.

He had risked offending Bane twice, and the consequences of that were still unknown. That was extremely precious to Victoria. "Anyway, if you need any help, reach out to me. The words I've spoken to you will always

hold."

Ethan could only nod helplessly in the end. "Okay, I understand, Miss Selwyn. Thank you."

"Well, I'll get going."

He looked into her eyes, hesitating slightly. "Miss Selwyn, what do you mean?"

"Yes, I'm ready to return. I didn't plan this trip for too long. My children are still waiting for me."

"They're waiting for us."

A displeased voice sounded beside them. At the same time, a hand pulled her into an embrace. He had been accompanying her all the way. However, Victoria did not expect him to feel jealous now and held her possessively.

Surprised yet with a faint smile, she lightly responded, "Yes."

"Okay." Ethan had not anticipated witnessing such a scene. Feeling a sense of unease, a loud noise came from upstairs,

As expected.

This loud noise caught the attention of many people, and their gazes involuntarily turned toward the source of the sound. Unfortunately, due to the distance and walls, they could not see what exactly had happened. Besides, their responsibilities kept them from moving, forcing them to remain steadfast in their original positions.

Victoria was startled by the loud noise. The person by her side held her tightly, fearing something might go wrong. After the sound ceased, it turned out that nothing had happened.

Still, in a state of shock, she looked at Ethan and asked, "Ethan? What just happened?"

Compared to her panic, he appeared much calmer. He did not budge or even frown and simply stood there, composedly saying, "It's nothing. Probably just some mishap caused by someone under my command. They must've damaged something. Someone will handle this specifically."

Victoria would not have known what had occurred without his explanation. She saw Ethan being so calm as if such incidents were nothing special. After the initial shock, she gradually began to comprehend what had happened. She pressed her lips together and tentatively said, "Alright, then."

There was a moment of silence between them.

She glanced at Alaric, who stood beside her. When he met her gaze, he raised an eyebrow but remained silent. Seeing his reaction, it was clear that he was following her lead completely. After a few seconds of eye contact, she whispered, "Should we be on our way now?"

He curled his lips and lightly pinched her waist. "Your call."

"Okay." Victoria nodded and then looked at Ethan, no longer feeling conflicted. She directly said, "Ethan, since he doesn't want to see me, we'll leave for now." After speaking, she glanced in the direction of the upper floor.

Unbeknownst to her, a small hidden camera was observing quietly from that spot. However, at this moment, Bane, standing behind the camera, could not help but hold his breath when he saw her looking in their

direction.

It felt like her gaze had pierced through the camera, colliding directly with his. His thin lips tightened, and his hand, hanging at his side, clenched into a fist.

There were many moments when he almost could not control his desire to see her, but just the thought that once she saw him, her worries would be over, and she would continue to live her own life without remembering him again made him feel that it would be better to maintain the current situation.

I don't want Victoria to let go of me. She must remember me forever. With this in mind, he slowly loosened his clenched fist. Forget it. This is fine as well.

When Victoria looked in his direction, her expression and gaze were calm. After a glance, she withdrew her gaze. Then, she looked at the man beside her and whispered, "Let's go."

"Okay." Alaric nodded and left with her.

They left swiftly, without pausing or hesitating. Soon, their figures disappeared.

Ethan stood in place, waiting for a moment but not hearing any movement behind him. He had no choice but to approach him on his own. As he walked past the stairs, he casually glanced at the location of the hidden

camera.

When he pushed open the door, he found that Bane had already returned to his room. The loud noise earlier made Ethan realize that Bane had heard their conversation and everything that happened downstairs.

He stood still for a moment before entering the room.

Then he now Dasa

His words received no response.

Ethan spoke again after seeing no response from him. "Mr. Morison, it seems that Miss Selwyn doesn't plan to return. Today is the last time."

Perhaps because Ethan repeated what Bane already knew, the atmosphere around him became even gloomier. He coldly said, "Get out."

"Mr. Morison-

"Didn't you hear me?"

Ethan stood in place, looking at him for a long time. "Mr. Morison, are you not going to see her? If you do,

there's still a chance now."

After a long silence, Bane sneered. "Get out. Don't make me say it the third time."

The light in Ethan's eyes dimmed. It seemed it was futile no matter how he tried to persuade Bane.