

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 576

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*Chapter 576 I Promise*

*Before Victoria could reject Alaric, he already swiftly unbuttoned his shirt, which was when she realized he was not joking at all. Oh gosh!*

*He is doing this for real! "No need for that. I'm fine bathing by myself. Now, would you please get me my tab?" She was thrown into a state of panic.*

*Nonetheless, Alaric acted as if he couldn't understand Victoria's words, smiling at her. "Didn't you just say you were bored? Let me keep you company and forget about your tab."*

*Victoria was speechless because she actually wanted the tab more. That's so thoughtful of you! Deep down, she had a feeling Alaric wanted more than just keeping her company in the bathtub. At the thought of that, Victoria blurted out, "Are you sure you're going to behave yourself? Or are you up to something?"*

*Alaric's hand froze as he curled his lips upward, his eyes locked upon her. "Seriously? Do I look like I'm up to something? Does it really look that obvious to you?" As soon as he finished his words, he slowly shifted his gaze downward and stopped somewhere.*

*Victoria then*

*sank below the surface of the water, but before she was fully submerged under the surface, her arm was seized by Alaric. "We're husband and wife. So, why are you avoiding me like that?"*

*"Well, I definitely don't find it entertaining to be stared at like that, so let me go."*

*"No can do." Alaric clamped his grip on Victoria's arm and added, "Unless you agree to let me stay with you."*

*Although Alaric might look like he was asking for Victoria's permission, he showed no signs of stopping in undressing himself. While he had one hand on her arm, the other one*

was busy removing the rest of his clothes. Then, he looked at her innocently. "Come on, look at me. I'm basically already naked, so if you won't let me bathe with you, I may catch a cold."

"You!" In the face of Alaric's shameless attitude, Victoria stared at his firm chest speechlessly and took a few moments to organize her words before she spoke again. "No! You haven't got yourself cleaned up, so you can't join me."

"Oh." Alaric knitted his eyebrows. "Are you saying I can join you right after I'm clean? In that case, give me 5 minutes." He then let go of Victoria's arm and disappeared, rendering her speechless.

Soon, Alaric turned on the shower as the sound of the water hitting the floor began to fill the space within the bathroom. While Victoria was too shy to show herself, Alaric wasn't afraid of showing his body to her. At that moment, the water droplets began to run down his muscular physique from his firm chest to his muscular abdominal muscles before it trickled further down.

Victoria quickly looked away, feeling too shy to stare at Alaric's body any longer. At the same time, she was seen pursing her lips, her heart racing like a jackhammer. On the inside, she began to ask herself whether she was only feeling shy after she lost her memory or whether she was an introvert even before she had amnesia. One way or another, Victoria was helpless against Alaric's straightforward attitude and personality. Are things the way they were? Or are they different now? Alaric is just too enthusiastic. I know he loves me, but sometimes, I'm just not sure if I could handle that.

In the meantime, as the pitter-patter began to fill the air in the bathroom, it was as if those sounds were Alaric's way of announcing his arrival into the bathtub. At the thought of that, she blushed and even forgot about her tab.

12:30 Fri

*Not knowing how long had passed, the pitter-patter suddenly came to a stop, whereupon the bathroom was filled with silence. At that moment, Victoria's heart skipped a beat because she was too scared that she would see something she didn't want to see if she turned around. Therefore, she only looked over her shoulder to see what was going on behind her, only to see a silhouette entering the water. As the ripples showed on the surface of the water, it was as if her heart was also beating rapidly.*

*"You..." Victoria was speechless, but when she struggled nervously, Alaric held her even tighter like chains tied around her. At the same time, he planted his lips behind her ears.*

*"Don't hide from me." Alaric placed his lips upon Victoria's ear, whispering to her. "I just want to hug you during the bath. If you continue avoiding me, I'm not sure if I will cross the line."*

*Why do the last few words sound like a threat to me? If I stay with him obediently, he won't do anything to me; but if I run away, I can't blame him for what he does, can I? Despite Victoria's rejection, she knew Alaric would do what he really meant. Thus, she had no choice but to rest in his arms. "Alright then, promise me you wouldn't do anything."*

*"Okay, I promise you." Alaric's voice sounded deep, which gave Victoria the impression that she couldn't trust*

*him.*

*Nevertheless, despite Victoria's distrust, Alaric didn't do anything else besides hugging her during the bath. Also, he did nothing else to her with his wandering hands, as he seemingly only wanted to enjoy the bath with her. Thus, Victoria slowly began to feel more and more relaxed, although she was nervous at first. After all, she couldn't help but feel awkward if she was caught doing something naughty with Alaric in her father's house.*

*Fortunately, Alaric kept his word and did as he said. Therefore, in the end, Victoria was so relaxed that she could rest on Alaric's shoulder comfortably while enjoying her pleasant bath. Bathing in the hot water, Victoria felt a lot more energized. Furthermore, the fact that she was leaning on Alaric's body made her feel only add*

*ed to her comfort, compared to leaning on the wall of the bathtub. She then pursed her lips and secretly smiled. thinking it was still comfortable to get along with Alaric as long as he behaved himself. Twenty minutes later, Alaric suggested that they should stop their bath.*

*However, Victoria didn't want to leave her bathtub. Come on. It's winter now. No one in my place would ever want to leave my bathtub.*

*Due to the cold weather out there, Alaric's suggestion sounded like a bad idea, and she immediately turned Alaric down.*

*'No, I want to stay here a little longer.' Comfortable in the tub, Victoria unknowingly spoke with a tone so coquettish that Alaric couldn't bring himself to turn her down. "Alright, let's stay here for five minutes, okay? No*

*more than that."*

*"Sure." Victoria gave Alaric an affirmative reply, but when 5 minutes was up, she refused to get up as she promised. "I want to stay a little longer. Maybe 5 minutes more."*

*when she*

*Alaric was speechless, not knowing Victoria had a side that he hadn't seen before. Ah, so that's how she reacts*

*goes back on her words. Despite feeling surprised, Alaric was tempted to agree with Victoria, but a few moments later, he quickly changed his mind. After all, while they had only been in the bathtub for 25 minutes, he had no idea how long Victoria had been in the bathtub by herself until she came in. If this goes on, it's going to be bad for the body. Alaric quickly carried Victoria away from the water and walked away.*

*"Let's get out of here. Come on."*

*"Let me go!"*

*Let me go!*

*Embarrassed and angry, Victoria struggled desperately, but even so, her physical strength was no match*

*for Alaric. With great ease, Alaric effortlessly carried Victoria in his arms, but before she could react, her legs were already on the ground, whereupon she found herself wrapped around by a huge bathrobe.*

#### *Chapter 577 Heartless*

*“Come on, wipe your body clean and put on your pajamas so that you don’t catch a cold.” Alaric put on a bathrobe as he was talking. When he was done, he saw Victoria standing in place with a pout like she didn’t think it was funny. “What’s wrong? Are you mad at me for stopping you from enjoying your bath?”*

*Instead*

*of answering Alaric’s question, Victoria only looked at him bitterly. In the meantime, when Alaric looked at her, he pinched her nose and said. “Alright, alright, it’s just a bath. You don’t have to look at me like that. You can do it again tomorrow, can’t you?”*

*“How is that the same?” In fact, the reason Victoria decided to have a hot bath in the tub was because she was*

*tired. Thus, if she was going to do the same thing again the next day, she might not be in the mood to do it by*

*then. Furthermore, she didn’t have the habit of taking a hot bath every day.*

*“Soaking*

*yourself in the water for too long isn’t good for your body.” Alaric turned around and walked away, deciding to waste no more time trying to debate with Victoria. Nonetheless, he still wrapped his arm around*

*Victoria, who stood there without moving like a statue.*

*Soon, Victoria found herself being carried from the bathroom to the wardrobe. He then put her down and opened*

*the wardrobe, skimming through the clothes on the inside and asking, “Which set of pajamas would you like to wear tonight?” Alaric asked while going through the clothes, but even until he was done going through the pajamas, he still hadn’t gotten a response from Victoria. Thus, he turned around, only to see Victoria still staring bitterly at him like the way she did back in the bathroom.*

*At the sight of the lady’s expression, Alaric helplessly looked at her and asked, “Come on, don’t tell me you’re still mad. You’re already out of the bathroom anyway.”*

*While Victoria only responded with silence, Alaric decided to stop consoling her because he thought he wouldn't be able to comfort her anyway. He then picked the most beautiful set of pajamas from the wardrobe and gave it to Victoria. "Put this on." Alaric was worried that the drenched bathrobe that Victoria was wearing would make her fall sick.*

*Nevertheless, Victoria continued to stand there, as if she was trying to throw a tantrum at Alaric. "No, I'm not going to put it on."*

*"Do you want me to help you?" Alaric raised his eyebrows when he noticed Victoria's stubborn attitude. The next second, Victoria, who just stood still in place, looked up and speechlessly stared at the man. How shameless! When will he ever stop threatening me that way?*

*However, Victoria eventually decided to take the pajamas from Alaric's hand when she knew the stalemate would lead the situation nowhere. Meanwhile, when Alaric saw Victoria finally putting on the pajamas, he took his own pajamas and put them on. After that, Victoria quickly buried herself in the comfortable blanket in bed.*

*Although Victoria didn't have memories of her past, she had a pleasant feeling toward the room in which she felt she belonged because Sasha told her that the room was hers earlier. Upon tossing and turning around in bed, she eventually occupied the whole bed with her body and only left some space for Alaric when he came*

*closer later.*

*"You seem to like it here, don't you?" Alaric stood beside the bed and asked, instead of getting onto the bed in a hurry.*

*"Yeah." Victoria nodded. "It's like I just naturally feel like I belong here."*

*"What about our home? Don't you feel belonged either?" Stunned by Victoria's response, Alaric eventually gave*

*in to his curiosity.*

*"What?" Victoria didn't understand Alaric's question at first, but soon, it quickly dawned on her about the meaning behind his words. As soon as she got that, she anxiously tried to explain herself. "No, that's not what I meant. Of course, I also feel belonged at home."*

*Nevertheless, Alaric still acted hurt and upset by Victoria's words. "Don't lie to me. Maybe it's because I haven't given you enough sense of security."*

*Wait, what? That's an unexpected turn. Victoria speechlessly thought to herself. Initially, already in bed, she crept off her cushion and seized Alaric's arm. "If I don't feel safe around you, why would I still want to be with you? Furthermore, when you came to my rescue for the first time, I came along with you even though I didn't know you well. Have you forgotten that?"*

*Upon hearing the lady's words, Alaric looked up and set his eyes on her fair arm. "So, you actually feel safe and secure with me around you, don't you?"*

*"Of course." Victoria nodded repeatedly without noticing the smiling look that flashed across Alaric's face.*

*"Well, in that case, maybe we should live separately from our parents when we get back this time. Okay?" Alaric seized Victoria's long arm.*

*"Live separately from them?" Victoria was stunned.*

*"Yeah, don't you find it inconvenient with them around?"*

*Victoria blinked innocently and asked, "Why is that so? The house is big, and there are many rooms available. If we're going to live separately, what are Nicole and Nathan going to do?"*

*In fact, it was Alaric's own selfish intention to live separately from his parents. After all, the only place where he and Victoria could be themselves was their own room now that they were living with their parents and the other maids. Apart from that, Alaric also didn't feel comfortable having Victoria sitting on his lap when his parents and children were around. Although he might have been able to put up with that once or twice, he eventually grew too frustrated to continue enduring that. Victoria is my wife, but because we're living with our parents, it has become difficult for us to share some quality private moments. Even if Alaric didn't come across such an opportunity to bring the issue up to Victoria, he was also planning to discuss it with her after the new year. Thus, he was surprised that he had already started discussing that with her before they even started celebrating New Year.*

*"I know what I'll say next might upset you, but Mom and Dad really love Nicole and Nathan a lot. Furthermore, they don't have to work now, so they have all the time in the world to look after them."*

*Upon hearing Alaric's words, Victoria immediately understood what her husband was trying to tell her. That means Nicole and Nathan would be living with Alaric's parents. Alaric's suggestion didn't sit well with Victoria, who pursed her lips with dissatisfaction. "I know you want what's best for the kids, but as their mother, I wouldn't want them to be away from me, especially when they're still so young."*

*Having lost the previous memories she once had, Victoria found it more necessary than ever before to create more memories with her children because she was not sure whether she could recover the memories of her past. If that can be done, it'll be a bonus, but what if it can't be? Therefore, I don't want to live separately from the children.*

*Alaric was soon overwhelmed by a strong headache when he heard Victoria's response. Deep down, he was trying to create more opportunities for some personal time between himself and Victoria while allowing his parents to look after Nicole and Nathan as they wished.*

*On the other hand, Victoria couldn't care less about Alaric's motive behind the suggestion he just gave her. When he didn't say a single word, she went on to say, "We're not going to live separately. Not anytime soon. After all, I don't see anything wrong with living here, so why must we separate from each other? Furthermore, I can't see how inconvenient that would be for everyone, so let me ask you back—what's actually bothering you?" She stared at the man in a bewildered manner. "Is it because you're going to head back to the company. once you feel better? But the office isn't around here... If that's the case, would you like to go back by yourself first? My office is just somewhere nearby... so..."*

*Before Victoria could finish her words, Alaric angrily interrupted her and asked, "Where is your conscience, Victoria?"*

*"Wait, what?" Victoria had no idea what made Alaric so agitated, thinking her suggestion was actually a good idea.*

#### *Chapter 578 Don't Want to Part With You or the Kids*

*Victoria asked in bewilderment. "What's wrong? Is there anything wrong with my suggestion?"*

*"What do you think?" Alaric responded with an unfriendly tone. "How long has it been since we reunited? How much time have we spent together? All I want is just some little private moments for us, but you? You want me to leave by myself. How mean and heartless!"*

*In the end, Alaric acted as if he was angry and was about to knock Victoria's forehead hard, but just when he was about to touch it, he paused and gently tapped it with his knuckles instead. "Your heart is made of stone."*

*Victoria subconsciously covered her own forehead with her palm after feeling a tap, awkwardly saying, "I— I'm sorry. I didn't know that was what you meant because you only said it was inconvenient for our parents to live with us. You didn't mention that you wanted to live only with me."*

*“What a fool!” Alaric couldn’t bring himself to tap Victoria’s forehead hard with his knuckles. Therefore, he eventually decided to pinch her soft cheek and said, “What are you talking about? Can’t you understand the meaning behind my words?”*

*Although he didn’t pinch Victoria’s face hard, she was still embarrassed by his actions. Thus, she subconsciously shoved him aside. “If you have something to say, just say it. Spare me your subtle hints.”*

*Just when she thought it was finally over, he suddenly stared at her and asked, “Are you sure you want me to speak my mind directly?”*

*Victoria had a bad feeling when she heard that, but before she could react, she heard the man’s voice once again. “I’d like you to move out with me.” Then, Alaric held her hand and asked, “Stay with me, would you?”*

*He spoke with a gentle tone, his eyes fixed upon her face in a gentle manner.*

*In response to Alaric’s loving reaction, Victoria almost gave in and agreed to his suggestion until the faces of her two children came to her mind. At that moment, all she could see was her two children hugging her while calling her Mommy.*

*While Victoria had no idea what the others would think about her, she could not seem to make a decision between her husband and children. Thus, she immediately shook her head at the thought of that and said, “No*

*way.”*

*Alaric wasn’t surprised to hear Victoria’s harsh reply despite his effort, as if he could read Victoria’s mind. He then looked down, his eyes filled with bitterness. In fact, he could understand and see the damage he did to Victoria in the past now that she had lost her memories. Although she couldn’t remember anything about the past, her subconsciousness wouldn’t lie because her children were even more important than herself in her*

*subconsciousness.*

*Alaric was aware of that, but even so, he never compared himself with them. However, at the moment when he learned the truth, he still couldn’t help but feel a stab of pain on the inside, but just when he was about to endure the pain, Victoria suddenly said, “I don’t want to part with you or the kids.”*

*He looked up in surprise. “Wait, what?” Deep down, he thought she would choose the children over him if she had to pick one of them to stay with.*

*You and the children are equally important to me.” She looked at Alaric in a serious manner. “But when you said your parents wanted to look after the children, I don’t think I can just move out with you and leave the kids to them. It’s not that I don’t trust them, but I’m still their mother after all. They’re like the whole world to me just as much as you are to me.” Victoria’s words melted Alaric’s heart.*

*As soon as Victoria finished her words, Alaric sympathetically pulled her into his arms and hugged her tightly. “Alright, that’s enough.”*

*In response, Victoria, who found herself in Alaric’s arms, couldn’t help but feel bewildered when she heard the man’s deep voice. What does he mean? What does he mean by enough? Is it because I’ve talked too much?*

*“I’m glad to hear those words. Really.” Alaric’s words immediately dispelled Victoria’s doubts. “At least that means the kids and I are just as important as each other to you.” Hugging her in his arms, he planted a kiss on*

*her nape.*

*“It’s getting late now. Good night.” Alaric let go of Victoria and lay down next to her in bed.*

*Victoria then turned around and faced Alaric. “Does that mean we’re not moving out for now? We’re going to live with everybody else, aren’t we?”*

*Although Alaric didn’t succeed in persuading Victoria, he had no choice but to postpone his plan. “Yeah, we’ll live with everybody else, but when our children grow up, can we move out?”*

*When our children grow up? Victoria gave Alaric’s question a thought, thinking they would have to wait for many years until it was time for her to move out with him since the kids were only 5 years old.*

*Unwilling to upset Alaric about something that was still far ahead, Victoria gave an affirmative reply without much hesitation. “Okay.”*

*“Are you sure? Don’t lie to me.” Alaric’s eyes lit up.*

*“Of course.”*

*He curled his lips upward and said, “Then, you must never go back on your words because I won’t be as nice as I am right now.”*

*“Okay, I heard you.”*

*Alaric could tell that Victoria was sleepy from her voice. As expected, it didn’t take long before Victoria started to close her eyes and fell asleep. Witnessing her sleepy look, Alaric*

ric felt sympathetic for her as he gently caressed her face and spoke with a gentle tone. "It's getting late now. Good night."

"Okay." Victoria gave Alaric an affirmative reply. Just when she was about to fall asleep, something crossed her mind. She then squinted and said, "You should take some rest too. Don't stay up too late."

Despite being sleepy, she is still kind enough to remind me to sleep early. Alaric then planted a kiss on Victoria's fair forehead. "Alright, let's go to bed together. Goodnight, Snowball."

He had no idea whether Victoria heard him, thinking she must have fallen asleep since he didn't get a response from her. He then let out a sigh and tucked her in with the blanket before he closed his eyes and slept beside

her.

The next day, Victoria, who was still sound asleep, woke up to some noise that came from downstairs, but because she was still sleepy, she subconsciously tried to toss and turn around in bed to find a comfortable position in her sleep. However, she quickly realized she couldn't do so because Alaric's arm was tightly wrapped around her waist. As she struggled to break free, she slowly became more sober. Then, when she looked down, she could clearly see Alaric's arm around her waist, which indicated that she must have slept in Alaric's arms throughout the night.

After having maintained the same posture during her sleep, Victoria was still comfortably sound asleep until she woke up. A few seconds later, she tried to take Alaric's hand off her, only to accidentally wake him up in the process. When Alaric opened his eyes, his gaze looked like a dark bottomless abyss. "You're up."

*First Top-UP*

*PREVIOUS*

*Bonus Reached*

*NEXT*

*Chapter 579 Find Someone Else*

Alaric's husky voice carried a hint of morning grogginess that was both deep and alluring.

On the other hand, Victoria found herself inexplicably enthralled by his voice and she became momentarily stunned before giving a nod. "Mhm."

*His eyes were still half-shut as he briefly checked his phone before setting it aside. Then, he reached out to embrace Victoria. "It's still early. Let's get some more sleep."*

*Although Victoria had initially planned to continue sleeping, she felt the need to change her position since she had been in the same position for too long and her hand had gone numb. So, after she was held by Alaric, she couldn't resist speaking up. "I want to turn over. Please let go of me."*

*Alaric, who had appeared to be drifting off with closed eyes, reluctantly opened his eyes once again and released his hold on her waist; it wasn't until Victoria turned over that he moved closer from behind to once*

*again hold her tightly.*

*"Done? Time to sleep."*

*"Mhm." Victoria closed her eyes, preparing to sleep after that.*

*Although she initially felt quite drowsy, all traces of sleepiness had inexplicably vanished due to the previous commotion. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't fall asleep. All hints of drowsiness had escaped her*

*clutches.*

*In the end, she had no choice but to open her eyes and lie still.*

*It was unbearably difficult to remain in bed without being able to sleep, especially with a pair of warm hands encircling her waist. Perhaps due to her restlessness, she felt as though Alaric had exerted all his strength on*

*her waist.*

*His hands are so heavy.*

*"*

*The more Victoria thought about it, the more discomfort she felt; therefore, she quietly extended her hand with the intention of removing Alaric's grasp.*

*Her movements were gentle, considering that Alaric was still asleep and she didn't want to wake him. Her sole intention was to free his hand and sneak downstairs to investigate the source of the commotion. Alas, to her surprise, Alaric's grip was so firm that she was unable to budge his hand at all.*

*She couldn't help but find her current circumstances rather awkward and felt speechless. Still, she persisted in her attempts to push him away.*

*However, rather than moving his hand away, she inadvertently roused Alaric from his sleep.*

*When Victoria heard the irregular and heavy breaths emanating from the person behind her, she realized that she had disrupted his rest.*

*“Are you not sleepy?” Alaric inquired with his husky voice.*

*Since Victoria had already awakened him, she decided to share her thoughts. “Mhm, I couldn’t fall back asleep after waking up. It’s quite noisy downstairs, and I wonder what’s happening...”*

*Before she could conclude her sentence, Alaric swiftly turned her around to face him and followed with an immediate fervent kiss that left her no room to react.*

*His breath was searing and dominating, invading every inhalation she took and encompassing every crevice of*

*her mouth.*

*Victoria abruptly comprehended the situation after tenderly entwining with him for approximately ten seconds. Regardless, she instinctively shoved against his chest somewhat impatiently when she came to such a*

*realization.*

*Alaric’s brow furrowed slightly in response to her actions. Yet, instead of releasing his hold, he tightened his*

*embrace and intensified the kiss.*

*Initially, Victoria was still resisting him, but eventually, the resistance waned and she succumbed to the irresistible allure. Her hand, which was once pressed firmly against his chest, gradually softened and glided down, matching his fervor with her own passionate response.*

*Time seemed to blur until Alaric finally let go of her with a ragged breath; however, instead of pulling away, he leaned his forehead against hers, exhaling heavily.*

*“Why did you push me earlier?” Alaric’s dark eyes revealed evident dissatisfaction when he posed the question, for he never thought that he would be pushed away even while kissing her. After all, it was just a kiss; it was not like he had done anything else.*

*Victoria’s cheeks were flushed from the kiss, and her breath was unsteady when she let go. While she tried to steady herself, she suddenly saw Alaric gazing at her with a sorrowful expression, questioning, “Why did you push me?”*

*The way he looked at her resembled that of a resentful husband. Internally, Victoria couldn't help but find it*

*amusing, yet she maintained a serious tone and responded, "I pushed you because neither of us has brushed our teeth yet."*

*Then, she quietly added, "Who kisses without brushing their teeth?"*

*Alaric dangerously narrowed his eyes upon hearing her words, and his grip on her waist tightened slightly. "Who said nobody does so? Haven't we been doing that for several consecutive days?"*

*The mention of this matter ignited anger within Victoria.*

*"How dare you say that? Who gave you permission to kiss me every morning?"*

*"Do you dislike it?"*

*"Well, not exactly..."*

*He had fresh breath since he brushed his teeth before sleeping every night, so kissing after waking up didn't*

*feel unclean. Unfortunately, perhaps it was a psychological quirk that always made Victoria feel she couldn't*

*overcome this hurdle.*

*"Since you brought the subject today, let me be frank with you. I might as well clarify that you're not allowed to kiss me after waking up."*

*As her words lingered in the air, Alaric's brows furrowed with increasing intensity. "Ms. Snowball, haven't you noticed? You're showing resistance towards me now?"*

*"I'm not resisting you."*

*"Are you sure?" Alaric's voice lowered, his tone grave. "We haven't been intimate since your return."—*

*Victoria's cheeks flushed at his words. "It's because you were injured before."*

*The instant he caught her attempting to dismiss the matter by mentioning the injury, he felt that he couldn't be as easily deceived as before.*

*"Are you trying to deceive me again by using the injury as an excuse? How long ago was I injured? I took your advice afterward and fully recovered."*

*Alaric deliberately emphasized the word 'recovered' as he wanted to see how she would respond.*

*Alas, he underestimated Victoria's ability to turn the tides against him.*

*Then, she replied innocently, "How can you call it a recovery? How much time has passed since your injury? You can't just say that we can start being intimate simply because the wound looks healed on the surface and it doesn't hurt anymore, right? Your injury was so severe, and it will require a long time to heal. Even the doctors said you shouldn't engage in strenuous exercise for these few months."*

*Alaric arched an eyebrow in response to the mention of 'strenuous exercise'. "I'm not planning to exercise. How about this? I shall stay put while you come to me."*

*Victoria gazed at Alaric with wide eyes while feeling utterly speechless.*

*"No?" A faint smirk tugged at the corners of Alaric's lips. "We haven't explored that aspect yet. Would you be willing to give it a try?"*

*Before Victoria could respond, she gave Alaric's hand a firm pat. "You can try it by yourself."*

*"How can I possibly try it alone?"*

*Victoria nonchalantly commented upon hearing this, "If you can't manage alone, then find someone else to experiment with."*

*Unbeknownst to her, Alaric's expression suddenly darkened upon hearing her words. "What did you just say?"*

*Victoria failed to notice the change in his demeanor, so she continued, "Well, if you're so determined, I won't be*

*able to stop you."*

*Nonetheless, she was done with this talk as she made an attempt to push Alaric away and get up.*

*"Hold on." Alaric tightly gripped her waist, his tone serious. "Clarify yourself. What exactly do you mean by suggesting that I find someone else?"*

*It was only then that Victoria noticed his darkened countenance and realized the unintended implications of*

*her casual remark.*

*First Top-UP*

*100 Bonus*

*Chapter 580 His Preference for Simpler Dishes*

*She actually told him to find someone else.*

*Initially, it was a casual remark that she clearly didn't think through; something she wouldn't have remembered later. However, Alaric's discontent became evident as he heard it. His brows began frowning tightly as though he took great offense to her statement.*

*Victoria also realized the inappropriateness of her previous words. How could she suggest to her beloved that he should find someone else? At this moment, she reacted and swiftly attempted to rectify the situation.*

*"I didn't mean it that way..."*

*"Then, what did you mean? Are you implying that it's acceptable for me to seek companionship elsewhere?"*

*She always appeared hesitant to be with me. Perhaps there was an element of her memory*

*loss contributing to it, but of course, my injuries played a part as well. But... Could it be that her resistance to committing to this relationship has prevented us from truly getting together?*

*In the past, Alaric often had to coax and deceive her to savor a taste of her. It was precisely due to this that he had been patiently waiting all this time.*

*However, at*

*this moment, all his anticipation seemed to crumble as Victoria told him to find someone else. Perhaps, this is her true inner thoughts?*

*Alaric knew he shouldn't be so sensitive as it wasn't how a man should be. Nevertheless, he seemed utterly incapable of controlling his anxious heart whenever he faced her.*

*“Of course not!” When she noticed his current terrible mood, she could only hasten to soothe him. “I genuinely didn’t mean it that way. I never thought about it like that.”*

*As Victoria explained, she leaned in slightly of her own accord. The fragrance from her enveloped Alaric’s breath, causing him to lower his gaze while still fixating on her with a somber expression.*

*“Unintentional words sometimes reveal deep subconscious thoughts.”*

*“That’s not true!” Victoria shook her head. “Don’t misinterpret me. I genuinely didn’t mean it!”*

*By the end of her statement, she was getting a bit anxious. “You can question me about other things, but not this. I have never thought that way. How could I possibly push the man I like to someone else?”*

*Although Alaric’s heart still felt heavy, it had to be acknowledged that Victoria’s firm resolve and her acknowledgment of him being the man she liked did bring him considerable joy. His mood noticeably brightened, and a slight curl formed on his lips. “Really?”*

*As Victoria worried about how much she needed to say to regain his favor, she was taken aback by how just two simple sentences caused him to smile.*

*As she experienced a mixture of disbelief and realization that Alaric could be easily appeased, she also discovered the immediate switch that could pacify him—affectionate words. These were not empty flattery but genuine expressions of her affection and love for him.*

*Now that she knew this small technique to make him happy, she felt as though she had unlocked a secret. She made a decision that if he ever felt upset in the future, she would use this method to console him. After all, they were already married, so exchanging sweet words was natural, wasn’t it?*

*With this in mind, Victoria followed his lead and confidently stated, "Indeed, if you have the audacity to seek someone else, I won't let you off the hook."*

*As expected, Alaric was no longer upset after her firm statement; instead, his eyebrows raised, clearly pleased by her words. "Oh, really? What do you plan to do if I really did so?"*

*If he had been angry earlier, then this subsequent question clearly hinted at something else.*

*Victoria could read him like a book and knew just what he wanted to hear. "Hmm, let me think... First and foremost, I will prevent you from leaving the house by restraining you with a rope."*

*With these words, Victoria cast a hesitant glance at Alaric, noticing how his eyes slightly narrowed and the veins on his forehead seemed to bulge in response.*

*Nevertheless, she was caught off guard by his response. Did he really react that way just because of my remark? Is he actually excited? Could it be that Alaric had such a kink?*

*While Victoria pondered this possibility, Alaric suddenly spoke seriously, "So, when are you going to tie me up?"*

*Victoria stared at him with a questioning look in her eyes before she understood what he was getting at. When she did, she was completely at a loss for words. On the other hand, Alaric appeared somewhat more eager. He grabbed her delicate and slender wrist, suggesting, "How about trying it next time?"*

*Victoria couldn't help but withdraw her hand in the face of his enthusiasm; her face turning red as she scolded him. "Aren't you being a bit overboard?"*

*"How can it be considered overboard if this is between spouses? It's just a matter of preference," he retorted.*

*She couldn't tolerate him any longer nor could she bring herself to utter those sweet words anymore. So, she said, "I'm going downstairs to have a look. Are you going to continue sleeping?"*

*How could Alaric still feel inclined to sleep after such a commotion? He was already brimming with energy. "No,*

*I'll follow you down."*

*Later, once they finished freshening up and getting dressed, they went down together. When they arrived at the ground floor, Victoria finally understood the source of the noise; it turned out that the elders were playing*

*with firecrackers with the children.*

*Since her father had acquired this entire area, and the houses were distanced enough, it was ensured that the firecrackers wouldn't disturb others.*

*When Tony noticed them, he greeted them with a cheerful smile. "Did we disturb the both of you?"*

*Victoria didn't admit it but simply asked, "Why did you wake up so early?"*

*"Early to bed and early to rise. You young people always like to stay up late; that's why you struggle to get up in the morning, and then struggle to sleep at night."*

*These familiar words from her parents unsettled Victoria, prompting her immediate rebuttal. "Dad, since when did we stay up late? Both Alaric and I have regular routines. We seldom work overtime at the company or engage in other entertainment activities. We go to bed early, okay?"*

*"Yes," Mary supported her. "When she was in Corynthea, Snowball lived with us. This child indeed goes to bed early and maintains a healthy routine."*

*Tony could naturally perceive that Victoria had developed a healthy routine during this period. Her complexion appeared radiant, with fair skin that seemed to glow. It was evident that she had been getting sufficient sleep; people with poor sleep and those who stayed up late could not attain such a complexion.*

*With Mary speaking up for her, Victoria felt a surge of pride.*

*“Dad, did you hear that? I haven’t been staying up*

*late.”*

*“Mhm, as long as you’re not staying up late. Still, don’t become too complacent; keep it up.”*

*“Alright.”*

*It was rare to see her obediently following her parents’ words, causing Alaric to stifle his laughter. When she was with him, her words were always sharp. She would frequently argue with him at will, though she also knew*

*how to make him very happy with that sharp tongue of hers.*

*Before Alaric could delve into his thoughts, Victoria had already stepped outside with her phone to capture some photos.*

*Under the supervision of the adults, the two children ignited firecrackers and reveled in joy. As Victoria*

*approached to take pictures, they eagerly cooperated and posed together as well. Besides, with the villa adorned with festive lights and decorations and the appreciation of everyone, the festive atmosphere quickly permeated the air, regardless of them being in a foreign country.*

*The housekeeper thoughtfully prepared pie, cookies, and pancakes for breakfast.*

*The chef, a Corynthean chef, was specially recruited to cater to Tony’s preference for simpler dishes.*

