

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 261

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### Chapter 261

Ten minutes later, in the Mawhen restaurant, Victoria returned the menu to the server. "That'll be all."

The server took the menu and nodded. "All right."

After that, he walked away with their order.

Meanwhile, Alaric, who sat opposite Victoria, remained quiet the whole time.

Silence stretched between the three as they sat in their chairs without speaking.

Terrance decided not to dwell on the situation, so he wasn't bothered at all.

Victoria didn't feel like talking to Alaric either. She was researching on her phone.

When Terrance learned what she was doing, he couldn't help but think she was a workaholic.

I thought Mr. Cadogan is the textbook definition of a workaholic, but she surpasses him.

There were many people in the restaurant. Terrance could smell the aroma of spices

in the air. It made his stomach growl, but it didn't do the same for Alaric.

After about ten minutes, the server began to bring them the dishes Victoria ordered.

The restaurant indeed lived up to its name. Every dish served had the same red color, indicating chilies were used in them.

Terrance was a fan of spicy food, so he didn't mind eating spicy food for a meal.

As he watched the dishes fill the table, his mouth watered. However, he kept a straight face the whole time due to Alaric and Victoria being his companions.

After the server stopped bringing food to their table, Victoria said, "That's everything. Let's dig in."

Terrance turned to her. He was shocked to find her talking to none other than him.

At that, he glanced at Alaric.

When the group first arrived at the restaurant, Alaric's face was expressionless, and he didn't speak at all. However, Alaric's face was dark now, which was a sign of his bad mood.

Alaric's hands remained on his sides, not touching the silverware. Thus, Terrance

didn't dare move at all,

"Let's dig in." Victoria urged him as she picked up the cutlery.

Only then did Terrance oblige. He then leaned toward Alaric and whispered into his ear, “Mr. Cadogan, I’ll choose something not spicy for you.”

He studied the dishes on the table for a long while and was disappointed to find that none of them was non-spicy.

His eyes darted back and forth between the dishes. In the end, he was frowning hard.

She’s doing it on purpose, isn’t she?

She knows Mr. Cadogan has a gastric problem, but she still suggested we eat at a Mawhen restaurant.

Not only did she suggest we eat here, but she also ordered a table full of spicy dishes.

Terrance set the silverware on the table at the thought. He couldn’t help but speak

1. up. “Miss Selwyn, the dishes you ordered are all spicy. I don’t think it’s necessary.”

Victoria responded to his accusation with a flat look. “Mawhen cuisine is known for its spiciness. Aside from spicy dishes, what kind of food do you expect to find in a Mawhen restaurant?”

“But-”

“Hurry up. We should catch some sleep in the hotel after dinner.” Victoria cut him off.

Terrance lost the mood to eat. Alaric remained seated as he fixed his gaze on her face.

Back when we were on the plane, she advised me to drink hot water and gave me a blanket. She was taking care of me. There’s no way she would change her mind before we visit Grandma.

He felt a lump in his throat.

She doesn’t care about me at all.

After a moment of pondering, Alaric picked up the silverware. Terrance’s eyes widened in disbelief as he watched Alaric reach out to the nearest dish, which was the pozole.

Before he could touch the food, Victoria used her spoon to block his movement.

“What are you doing?” she asked.

He paused, eyes darting to her face.

“I’m eating,” he mumbled.

She scowled at his words. “Did I say you can eat this?”

His lashes fluttered at her words. “Didn’t you bring me here to eat these?”

One thing was clear to him. She wants a payback because I wronged her in the past.

A tight feeling rose in his chest. However, he decided to take it without bearing a grudge if she was planning for a payback.

As soon as he finished the words, the server brought them the last dish.

“I’m sorry. The congee took a while **but** now it’s here. Enjoy your meal.”

The server set **a pot of congee on** the left side **of the** table.

Alaric’s mind went blank at the sight of the congee.

Terrance shared his shocked expression. “M–Miss Selwyn. Is the congee for...”

Victoria scoffed at Terrance’s shocked expression. “Do I look like a malicious woman to you? So that’s how you see me. The kind of person who would force him to eat spicy food even when I’m well aware of his gastric problem.”

If I want him to suffer, I could’ve simply left him in the hospital and not visited him at all. What would be the point of doing all these petty things?

However, Victoria indeed brought Alaric to such a restaurant on purpose.

It seems like you won't eat properly when I'm not around.

Fine. Have fun eating the plain congee while watching us eat these savory dishes.

"I wouldn't dare!" Terrance denied the claim. His doubts vanished at Victoria's thoughtful gesture.

Alaric shared the same feelings. He watched the steamy congee without a word as emotions swirled within him.

I thought she...

So, she ordered the congee for me before we departed.

Terrance immediately served Alaric a bowl of congee. 'Mr. Cadogan, the congee is hot. Let's wait for it to cool down, and you have to eat slowly. Don't burn yourself.'

Alaric stared at the congee before him.

Even though it was just a bowl of congee, he treasured it.

Victoria's plan to take revenge by having him eat the congee and watch her and Terrance eat was an utter failure.

Alaric curled his lips into a smile when everyone wasn't paying attention. He picked up the spoon and took a spoonful of congee before sending it into his mouth.

The congee was a little hot in his mouth. He remembered Terrance's words, so he waited for the second spoon to cool down before he continued eating.

Victoria studied his face. The man ate in silence and without protest. His expression remained neutral instead of the dissatisfaction she expected to see on his face. He doesn't seem like he's bothered by the food in front of him.

Victoria arched her brows in amusement. No complaints at all?

#### Chapter 261 A Lump in His Throat

Victoria's red lips got redder after the meal. Terrance's condition was a stark contrast to her calm expression. Even though it was winter, he kept sweating.

When the group was departing, he used a tissue to wipe the sweat on his forehead.

Looking at Victoria, who looked fine even after finishing the dishes, he couldn't help but comment, "Miss Selwyn, you're good at eating spicy food."

She curled her lips without answering him.

The truth was she didn't eat much. Even though she kept reaching out to take more food, she took it in small portions. Besides, she served her food with a beverage.

She was surprised to see Alaric finish the congee under the circumstances.

The group returned to the hotel after that. Alaric called out to Victoria when she was

about to head to her room.

“We’ll leave at 8.00AM tomorrow.”

She nodded. “All right.”

After pondering for a moment, she added, “What about 7.30A M? We should leave 30 minutes earlier. I want **to** buy something.”

After all, it would be my first time visiting Grandma at her grave. I probably should bring her something.

Even though she has passed away, but...

Her face fell when a certain memory resurfaced.

Alaric could tell what she was thinking by the change in her expression. Pursing his lips, he said in a soothing voice, “Don’t worry too much. Get some sleep.”

Chapter 262

Victoria sent a message to Fiona before she went to bed.

Fiona replied to her message with the video of the two children having fun in the amusement park.

“Don’t worry. I’m looking after the kids. They had fun today. Since tomorrow is the weekend, I’ll send them home later.”

Fiona had looked after the children for Victoria more than once in the past, so she didn't see a reason not to trust Fiona.

"All right. Thank you. I'll be back soon." After that, Victoria put her phone away to sleep.

She wasn't aware that Fiona played the video of Nathan and Nicole again after their conversation ended.

They're too cute! Fiona thought.

She couldn't help but share the video on her Facebook.

Not long after she posted the video, her admirers liked the post. They showered the children with praise to gain her favors.

Fiona read the comments, but none of them pleased her.

No matter the content, the men would only mindlessly leave compliments. These hypocrites.

At that, Fiona exited Facebook. She couldn't resist looking at the contact she pinned in her messaging app.

It belongs to Mr. Cadogan.

The pair never talked to each other for once ever since they exchanged numbers that day.

She sent him messages, but he never replied. She remembered his distant attitude.

I bet he doesn't read them at all.

Besides, something is going on between him and Victoria.

Fiona didn't dare ask or have the will to ask him. Even if something is going on between them, I don't want to know.

At that, Fiona tapped open their conversation. It was a rather one-sided

conversation, in which every message was from her as if she was clingy.

It was the first time she put herself in such a position for a man. Usually, it was the man who pursued her instead of the other way around. Even if she had to take the initiative sometimes, the men would rush to her side at the first syllable that left her mouth.

However, Alaric was different. He showed no interest in her no matter what she did. Fiona was frustrated. She tapped into the contact's information, trying to delete his number.

Her finger hovered above the delete button. She was hesitating.

Do I really want to?

After a few moments of hesitation, she exited her app.

Forget about it. I won't delete his number for the time being. I can still try in the future.

At the same moment, Nicole called out to her. "Miss Fiona! Over here!"

Fiona immediately put her phone away. "I'm coming."

She stopped paying attention to the comments under the video she posted as she joined the children in their games.

The next morning, Victoria woke up on time. After getting washed, she changed into her lingerie before putting on the sweater and overcoat she wore yesterday. After that, she walked over to the door.

She thought she would have to wait for her companions. To her surprise, she was greeted by the sight of Alaric leaning against the wall and a fidgeting Terrance when she left the room.

Upon noticing her, Terrance cast her a smile. "Good morning, Miss Selwyn."

Terrance met her gaze when she glanced at them.

"You're early," she remarked.

"We happened to wake up early. Miss Selwyn, it rained last night, so the temperature outside is low. Don't you think you should put on more layers of clothes?"

Low temperature? No wonder I feel chilly in the corridor.

09:29 Fri, 30 Jun

Chapter 262 The Cemetery

I'm fine with it. I'm not afraid of the cold. It's just that someone worries me,

Victoria turned to Alaric.

She involuntarily frowned at the sight of his outfits.

Alaric was wearing a button-down, a sweater vest, and a coat.

Such outfits were considered as warm clothes for a healthy man in chilly weather. However, Alaric was sick at the moment, so his immune system was weak. Yet, he dares go out like this.

“Don’t worry about me, Mr. Levane. It seems like Mr. Cadogan needs your reminder more than me. Look at his clothes.”

At least I’m wearing an overcoat. It keeps me warm.

“I don’t feel the cold,” Alaric retorted.

“But you’re a patient,” she reminded him.

He chuckled at her words. “A patient can’t walk around like me. Enough talk. It’s time to go. Don’t you have things to buy?”

Victoria fumbled for words to convince him. Fine. He knows himself best. I shouldn’t meddle with his choice of clothing.

It’s not like I’m his parent or anything.

At that, Victoria nodded, no longer trying to change his mind.

“Let’s go.”

The group bought fruits, flowers, and candles before heading to the cemetery.

A pang of sadness welled up inside Victoria on her way to the cemetery. A somber mood enveloped the group.

Nobody said a word. It was a sad thing to think about the deceased.

“Here we are.”

The car rolled to a stop on the compound. The group opened the door and got out of the car.

Puddles had formed in the cemetery after rain. Victoria could smell the mix of rain, grass, and soil in the air.

There weren't many people around at the moment. The cemetery occupied a strategic location in Gandra. The walkways were clean as the rain last night had washed the fallen leaves off the road.

Victoria trailed behind Alaric. The gravestones weren't situated as close to each other as she expected. Instead, there was a distance between each of them.

Victoria withdrew her gaze after a few glances.

After a few minutes of walking, Alaric stopped.

Victoria noticed it, so she stopped as well. Then, she followed his gaze and looked down at the gravestone in front of them.

She saw a color photo.

It was a photo of Griselda in her younger days. The girl had a bright and contagious smile.

Victoria's feet were rooted to the ground as the sight of the photo struck her.

Griselda's words rang in her ears.

“Alaric, Victoria. After I'm dead, promise me you'll put a photo of the younger me on

my gravestone. Your grandfather passed away at a young age. I'm worried that he won't recognize me in my old age."

Tears blurred Victoria's vision. She couldn't see the picture through her blurry vision. However, the young Griselda's smile was imprinted in her mind.

"Forgive me, but can I have a moment alone with Grandma?"

Victoria tried to suppress her emotions, but Alaric still heard the shakiness in her voice. His brows furrowed at his discovery. A few moments later, he turned to Terrance.

Terrance took the hint and left with Alaric in silence.

The two walked away, leaving space for Victoria and Griselda.

She approached Griselda's grave with the flowers and mementos. After that, she bent down and set the things around the gravestone.

"I'm back, Grandma."

On her way to the cemetery, words bubbled in Victoria's chest, threatening to get out. She even planned what she wanted to tell Griselda. However, as she stood

before Griselda's grave, she couldn't bring herself to say a word.

The feeling was painful as if a dagger cut her heart into pieces.

Victoria parted the grass around the gravestone and wiped the dust off Griselda's picture. After that, she felt herself calming a little. "I'm sorry, Grandma. I left without telling the truth. I didn't even come back to visit you after all these years. You must be angry.

I understand. I deserve it. Even I think I made a mistake. If you can hear me, can you visit me in my dreams tonight? I deserve a scolding from you."

Chapter 263

Alaric watched Victoria from a distance. She was leaning against the gravestone as she spoke quietly to Griselda.

He couldn't hear her words, but the sorrows and desperation emanating from her were slowly dawning on him.

She's just like me when I first heard Grandma passed away.

No. She's worse.

The thought brought him back to a memory of five years ago. Victoria hallucinated when the doctors were operating on Griselda, which proved how much she loved Griselda.

Alaric narrowed his dark eyes at the thought. He worried that visiting Griselda's grave would upset Victoria significantly.

A while later, the weather turned worse. The thunder rumbled in the sky.

Terrance looked up in the sky and found the sky turning darker.

Therefore, he reminded Alaric with a frown, “Mr. Cadogan, it’s going to rain. Should we

Chapter 204 You Asked for a Bruce

go get Miss Selwyn and head back to the hotel?”

Alaric stood still. A moment later, he ordered, “Get us two umbrellas.”

Terrance wanted to say something but ended up not saying anything at all. He headed to the security post to ask for umbrellas.

A few minutes later, he returned to Alaric’s side with two black umbrellas. “Mr.

Cadogan, I got the umbrellas.”

“Give her one.” As soon as Alaric finished the words, an idea occurred to him. Therefore ,

he reached out his palm to Terrance. “Forget about it. Give me the umbrella.”

Then, he walked toward Victoria with an umbrella,

Victoria had stopped talking, She was sitting in front of the gravestone without a word.

It seemed to him that she didn’t care about her image. Even though the ground was wet, she simply sat there. The soll even dirtied her light-colored coat.

He frowned at the sight. He stopped before her with an umbrella in his hand. “It’ll rain soon.”

The words of reminder left him, but Victoria didn't visibly react to his words. She stayed

Chapter 263 You Asked for a Divorce

sitting with a blank face.

Alaric's frown grew deeper. "Victoria."

She remained sitting on the ground,

The thunder rolled, and rain began to fall from the sky,

Alaric's expression sank. He stepped closer to her, shielding her from the rain with the umbrella.

However, Victoria didn't move at all. It was as if she didn't hear him or noticed the rain.

Something's wrong.

At first, it was only light rain. However, the rain began to pour after some time. Her clothes will get wet if she stays here.

After all, it was winter.

Alaric could no longer wait for her response. He bent down and picked her up with a hand around her waist and another under her legs.

Victoria was a slim woman. Even though Alaric wasn't in his best condition, it wasn't

difficult to carry her.

Victoria leaned against him like a willow. Her arms fell to her sides as she stayed in his arms like a lifeless puppet.

Upon seeing this, Terrance rushed over to them and helped Alaric to hold the umbrella.

Once Terrance held the umbrella above Alaric's head, Alaric looked down at the woman in his arms.

"What's the point of feeling sad? Grandma is gone. She won't come back even if you cry."

Alaric's words were harsh and direct. They pierced through Victoria's heart like a dagger.

She raised her chin and locked eyes with him.

Even though she knew he had nothing to do with it, she couldn't help the grudge that rose within her. "It's all your fault!"

He didn't expect her to throw accusations at him out of nowhere. "What do you mean?" However, she bit her lips and stared daggers at him instead of answering.

Her glare and lack of cooperation frustrated him. He narrowed his eyes. "Answer me."

Why is she blaming me? Is she hiding something from me?

Victoria scoffed. "What can I say? There's nothing to talk about between us. Alaric, I wouldn't have left Grandma if it wasn't for you! I didn't even have the chance to see her off!"

"What do you mean? You asked for a divorce in the first place!"

"Me? Asking a divorce?"

Victoria pushed him away as if she heard a joke. She struggled out of his arms and took

a few steps back, exposing herself in the rain.

Alaric was shocked to find her standing in the rain. He grabbed the umbrella and approached her, blocking the rain from pouring on her.

He wrapped his arm around her waist when she attempted to step back. "You might catch a cold."

"It's none of **your** business."

Victoria retorted with a cold look on her face. She tried to throw his hand off her waist

but instead gave him the chance to grab her by her wrist. "It is. Let's settle it right now with Grandma as our witness."

The last sentence reminded Victoria of where she was. Right! We haven't left Grandma's grave. We shouldn't fight in front of her.

I can't lose my temper here.

At that, the swirling emotions within her subsided. She found herself beginning to calm down.

She cast her eyes downward as calmness enveloped her.

"We have nothing to say. Let's head back."

After that, she tried to walk away. However, he grabbed her faster. "No. Let's get this straight."

Alaric refused to go and tightened his grasp on her wrist. "What do you mean it's my fault you had to leave Grandma?"

Victoria looked at him coldly. "I mean literally. Do you not understand that?"

Then, Victoria swatted his hand away. However, her world turned dark all of a sudden,

and she passed out.

"Miss Selwyn!" Terrance exclaimed. He involuntarily stepped forward to grab her.

Fortunately, Alaric caught her in time.

She passed out in his arms. At that moment, Alaric finally noticed that her cheeks weren't as rosy as when they departed from the hotel.

She looks pale. How did I not notice it at all?

"Mr. Cadogan, will Miss Selwyn be all right?" Seeing Victoria's pale face, Terrance expressed his concern.

Alaric didn't answer the question. Instead, he handed the umbrella to Terrance. "Hold it."

Terrance immediately reached out his arm to take the umbrella.

However, the umbrellas were large so he couldn't hold two at the same time. After a second of hesitation, he threw his umbrella away and held Alaric's umbrella.

Once Terrance took charge of holding the umbrella, Alaric carried Victoria in his arms.

Terrance followed behind to shield Victoria with the umbrella as the group strode out of

the cemetery.

The rain had already ruined Terrance's clothes when the group arrived at the car. Alaric's clothes also got wet in the rain, making him look like a complete mess.

However, he paid no mind to his condition. He searched for the towel in the backseat to wipe the water off Victoria's body. He also ordered Terrance, "Grab the wheel. We're going to the hospital."

Terrance got himself a towel to dry his body once he got in the car.

It was winter. Getting caught in the rain wasn't a pleasant experience.

Fortunately, Terrance was a healthy man. Thus, getting wet wasn't a problem for him at all.

As he dried himself, his gaze landed on Alaric, only to find Alaric wasn't taking care of himself at all. Thus, he waited until Alaric's hands were free before passing Alaric a new towel.

"Mr. Cadogan, your clothes are wet. Use the towel to dry yourself."

Alaric looked down at the towel in Terrance's hand for a moment before taking it. To

Terrance's surprise, Alaric reached out to Victoria again.

Terrance wasn't expecting such an outcome.

Alaric used the towel to dry Victoria's clothes. After making sure she was fine, he finally used the towel to dry himself.

Chapter 264

They were about to go to the hospital, but Victoria woke up long before they even arrived there.

She was blinking away the grogginess when she realized she was lying in the car with the heater on full blast. However, Terrance, who was sitting in the front, was still utterly soaked. Although her mind wasn't fully awake, she had already heard him sneeze and sniffle from the cold several times.

She was so dazed that she instinctively held her head. Alas, before she could even touch her forehead, she was met with a pair of cold eyes.

Alaric was sitting in the corner of the back seat looking quietly at her.

Only then did Victoria realize she had taken up a lot of space during her unconsciousness and forced Alaric into the corner.

She wanted to sit up, but she still felt as though her vision was swimming. Eventually, she decided to just let things be and didn't bother moving.

Terrance, who was oblivious that Victoria had woken up, sneezed a few more times and pinched his nose before turning his head to ask Alaric, "Mr. Cadogan, why aren't you

sneezing? Your back is all wet too."

Victoria was stunned when she heard Terrance's remark. Still, she immediately deduced what had happened after she fainted based on those words.

It was raining when she fainted, but she was dry while both men were drenched to the bone. So, it was obvious who protected her.

She remembered that they were arguing before her vision went dark. Frankly, she never expected to faint right there and then. Plus, he even helped her out. This realization made Victoria uncomfortable.

“Mr. Cadogan, the hospital’s right up ahead,” the driver announced suddenly.

Victoria stiffened once more before realizing that they probably wanted to send her to the hospital since she fainted.

Terrance seemed to sense something amiss. So, he turned around to take a quick peek and was met with Victoria’s indifferent eyes.

He froze momentarily before saying almost casually, “Oh, you’re awake, Miss Selwyn?”

She shot him a dispassionate look. “Yes. There’s no need for the hospital. Let’s return to

the hotel.”

Even now, Terrance’s clothes were still dripping with rainwater. So, it was better for them to return to the hotel before all of them caught a cold. Moreover, they were only in such a state because of her. So, if they did catch a cold, she would definitely feel guilty.

As Terrance had not expected Victoria to wake up at this time, he was a little unsure whether he should heed her orders. Thus, he turned his beseeching eyes toward Alaric.

“Mr. Cadogan?” The driver also didn’t dare to make a decision without Alaric’s say-so, Hence, he parked the car by the side while waiting for new instructions.

Alaric’s gaze never left Victoria as he stayed in silence for a long while before finally saying, “Then, let’s head back.”

After they returned to the hotel, everyone scattered off to their rooms. Terrance was freezing. It was so bad that he felt that his teeth would start chattering if he remained in his waterlogged attire. Thus, he immediately scurried off to his room in order to change his clothes. To his surprise, he found Alaric sitting on the couch like a statue by the time he was done freshening up.

“Mr. Cadogan, are you not going to change?”

Alaric merely glanced at him.

“Your clothes are wet. You should hurry and, at least, change out of them,” Terrance babbled hastily as he walked up to him to help pull the man up.

Alas, Alaric still didn't move a muscle. So, Terrance instantly knew that he was being stubborn again. “Mr. Cadogan, don't tell me you're going to ignore your health now. It's already winter and you're sick. Gastritis is already a huge enough problem as it is. If you catch a cold now, you'll need to go to the hospital.”

Then, Alaric finally looked at him. “Go to the hospital. Isn't that good?”

before

Terrance frowned at him. “Oh, gosh. That's not a good thing, Mr. Cadogan. What you want is to pretend to be sick. But if you keep this up, your body won't be able to take it you even make a single step in regard to your plans. So, please listen to me and change out of your wet clothes. Miss Selwyn awoke during the drive to the hospital, so

she is well aware that you spent some time under the rain. This won't stop you from feigning illness even after you've gotten yourself into a fresh set of clothes."

When Terrance noticed that Alaric was still stubbornly trying to do things his way, Terrance tried to threaten him, warning, "If you're not going to change out of your wet clothes, wouldn't Miss Selwyn know that you're doing this on purpose when she sees you later?"

"I guess... That makes sense." Alaric was finally convinced and took off his soggy jacket and shirt.

After Alaric changed into dry clothes, he did indeed feel a lot better. Suddenly, Terrance's phone started to ring.

Just as he was about to take his phone out, Alaric demanded, "What did she say?"

Terrance was rendered speechless as he hadn't even managed to read the message yet. After he read it, he reported, "Miss Selwyn said that she's not feeling well and wants to take a nap. So, she will not be joining us for lunch."

"Not feeling well?" Alaric furrowed his brows. "Call her and ask for details."

It was quite worrying as she had fainted prior to this and was now saying that she was feeling under the weather.

Terrance clutched his phone tightly and cast him a tentative look. "Mr. Cadogan, why don't you call her using your phone?"

He instantly received a cold death stare from Alaric that made him reflexively shudder.

Therefore, Terrance could only muster up his courage and called Victoria.

Fortunately, she picked up the call not long after Terrance dialed her number.

“Yes, Mr. Levane?”

“Miss Selwyn, I-” His phone was snatched away by Alaric before he finished his sentence.

“How are you doing? Where does it hurt?”

Victoria’s hands tightened on her phone as she heard that cold voice coming through the phone and answered softly, “I’m tired. Does that count?”

Alaric frowned as her answer was obviously just an excuse.

So, Victoria repeated once more, “I’m going to sleep. Is there anything else?”

It was obvious she found him annoying.

He pursed his lips and stated, “If you’re unwell, you should go to the hospital.”

Victoria honestly didn’t know what to say to the man. So, she simply answered, “I’m tired. I want to sleep.” Then, she hung up the phone without further ado.

Beep. Beep. The tone from the phone made Alaric’s face turn even gloomier.

Terrance noticed that and quickly grabbed his phone back in case Alaric threw his

phone away in a fit of frustration. “Mr. Cadogan, you should let Miss Selwyn sleep since she has already made things so clear. Maybe she didn’t get a good night’s rest last night.”

So, Alaric let it go and returned to his room.

When it was lunchtime, Terrance called room service to order some food.

Alaric was having plain congee with some greens as that was the only thing he could eat with his weak stomach.

On the other hand, Terrance ordered a variety of dishes for himself.

Since Victoria wasn't around, Alaric didn't seem to have any appetite. As a result, he placed his bowl down after merely eating half a bowl of congee and asked Terrance, "How long has she slept since this morning?"

Terrance did a quick mental calculation. "Around two hours. Why?"

Two hours... I guess it's about time, right?

Then, Alaric ordered him, "Order food for her room."

"But Miss Selwyn..."

"She can sleep again after she eats."

"Alright." Terrance didn't dare rebut and made the call.

After twenty or so minutes, the hotel staff sent the food up and they both went to listen in at the door.

Yet, no one came to answer the door even though the hotel staff had pressed the bell numerous times. Alaric immediately felt something was off as he swung the door open and walked right out of his room.

"What's wrong?"

Chapter 265

The hotel staff was perplexed to see Alaric and Terrance and questioned warily, “You are?”

Terrance pointed at himself and answered, “I was the one who called earlier and ordered in my friend’s stead. She’s in the opposite room.”

The hotel staff immediately made a face of understanding and nodded.

“Oh, okay. But it seems your friend isn’t around. No one came to the door even after I pressed the bell a few times.”

The hotel staff asked carefully, “Why don’t you make a call to check if she’s still inside?”

So, Alaric looked at Terrance. “Call her.”

Terrance whipped out his phone to call Victoria. At first, he didn’t think that she would answer, but she did very quickly.

“Mr. Levane.” Victoria’s voice didn’t sound like she was woken up from slumber. So, shouldn’t be sleeping at that moment. But why didn’t she open the door when the doorbell rang?

she

“Miss Selwyn, are you awake?”

Victoria sat in the bustling lounge with the phone to her ear. She pursed her lips before sighing.

“Miss Selwyn, if you are, please open the door. Mr. Cadogan and I ordered food for you.”

Terrance’s voice was filled with apprehension and a clear desire to please.

Up to this point, Victoria couldn’t help but sigh again as she murmured, “It’s alright, Mr. Levane. I’m sorry for the inconvenience but I’ve already left.”

“Huh?” Terrance looked a little lost and confused at her words. “Miss Selwyn, you-”

But before he could finish his sentence, Alaric took his phone.

Just as Alaric put the phone to his ear, he heard Victoria’s voice, “I’m at the airport going

back to Jasea. Please inform Alaric about this.”

His face instantly turned dark at that. “What did you say?”

The sudden change of tone stunned Victoria before she realized why Terrance’s voice was suddenly cut off. It was because Alaric had taken his phone yet again.

She calmed down and answered lightly, “Didn’t you hear me? Then, that’s great. It

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seems that Terrance wouldn’t need to tell you instead.”

Alaric’s eyes were as cold as ice. “What is the meaning of this, Victoria?”

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“Nothing. Did you forget this was a deal? I told you yesterday in the hospital, this was only a contract. Now that I’ve seen Grandma, I’ll be returning to Jasea since I do have business to attend to there.”

Alaric sneered, “Did you say you’re not feeling well and wanted to rest?”

“Yes. I rested for 20 minutes. Is there a problem?”

After she hung up the phone, she bought the earliest plane ticket to Jasea and packed her stuff after resting for 20 minutes.

Alaric was speechless at her retort. It wasn’t that he couldn’t, but he was infuriated by her attitude and was at a loss for what to say.

He gritted his teeth and hissed through clenched teeth, “Wait for me there.”

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However, Victoria smirked and drawled nonchalantly, “I’m sorry, Mr. Cadogan. I can’t. I’ve already passed through security and the plane’s about to take off. You won’t make it even if you hurry over now.”

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Alaric didn’t speak, but his hands gradually tightened on the phone as his temper flared.

“Victoria, do you think that I can’t do anything about you after you’re in Jasea?”

“What are you saying, Mr. Cadogan? I’m only returning to Jasea for work. Is there a

problem?”

After a long silence, Alaric chuckled lowly before replying, “Sure. There isn’t one. Then, you should return to Jasea and wait for me there.”

The fake smile on Victoria’s face almost fell from her face. “Sure. I’ll wait for your arrival.” Then, she hung up as the smile on her face disappeared entirely.

After that, she put her phone away and picked up her hand-carry luggage before walking toward the boarding gate. On the other hand, Alaric returned the phone to Terrance.

Terrance took a look and realized the phone call had ended. He inhaled deeply as he recalled what he heard just now and carefully inquired, “Mr. Cadogan, did Miss Selwyn go to the airport already?”

Alaric didn’t answer, but his gloomy face was a telltale sign as it were.

“Then... what should we do now?”

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Alaric glanced at him. “Return to the office.”

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Then, he entered the hotel room without another word. Terrance wanted to follow after him but remembered the hotel staff was still waiting for their response. So, he

explained, "We don't want the food anymore. You can share it with the staff. The person in the room has already checked out." Then, he hurriedly ran after Alaric.

The hotel staff was rooted to the spot for a good while before realizing what Terrance meant and his eyes widened in delight.

In Jasea, Victoria had just gotten off the plane when Henry called her.

"Miss Selwyn, I'm waiting for you at the arrival gate. I see that your plane has landed."

Victoria replied, "Yes. I'm about to head there. Just give me a few more minutes."

"Sure." Henry kept his phone and circled his fingers on the railing lightly. A few minutes later, he saw a slender figure walking toward him.

He immediately put on a smile and approached her. "Welcome back, Miss Selwyn. How was the trip to Gandra? Did any sparks of a possible reunion with Mr. Cadogan fly?"

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The second sentence nearly made Victoria trip as she looked at him speechlessly.

"Mr. Poole, we're old enough. Please don't joke around like that."

"Tsk. So what if we're old? This is the best time to make jokes."

Henry took her luggage from her. "Here. Let me. You're the boss. You just need to get in the car.\*

Victoria didn't argue with him. Since he wanted to take the luggage, she didn't see a point in refusing. Plus, she didn't want to waste time and catch people's attention arguing at the exit.

After they got in the car, Henry still didn't stop and started pestering her, asking, "But really, though. Why didn't Mr. Morison pick you up this time?"

Then, Victoria turned her head to the side and gave him a look. "Mr. Poole, I think we should add another requirement the next time we're hiring."

Henry laughed, "What requirement?"

"Don't gossip about your superior's personal matters."

"Sure. I'll add it right away." Henry smiled. "But Miss Selwyn, I'm not gossiping about  
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you. I'm not the type to talk with others behind your back. I usually ask my questions face to face."

"No. You can't do that either."

Victoria shut her eyes as she didn't want to entertain him any longer.

Henry was good-natured and liked to fool around. He also wasn't one to get angry easily

either. So, he wasn't offended at all when Victoria ignored him and wouldn't assume that she was pulling a long face at him.

"But by the looks of it, I'm guessing that you don't want to talk to Mr. Morison? That's fantastic. Frankly, I don't really like him either."

Victoria pursed her lips and asked in resignation as she knew he wasn't going to let her off the hook so easily, "Mr. Poole, is your love life going well?"

"Of course. It's great. I have a wife and a child. My family is happy. If you have any problems in your love life, you can ask me. I've got quite the experience."