

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 301

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*Their lips were dangerously close, so close that Victoria would touch Alaric with just a slight movement,*

*This proximity was too dangerous.*

*She could only put her hand between them as her neck shrank slightly backward to create some distance between herself and Alaric, but to her surprise, Alaric leaned in for a kiss as soon as she moved.*

*“Mm!”*

*The moment their lips met, Alaric felt as if an electric current surged through his body, leaving an intense tingle in his limbs.*

*The softness he felt against his lips made him instinctively tighten his grip around the woman’s slender waist. As he deepened the kiss, his breathing grew heavier.*

*Victoria kept pushing against his chest to get him off of her. “L—Let go of me!”*

*Now that Alaric had finally kissed the woman he had yearned for day and night, there was no way he would let her go just like that. Not only did he refuse to let*

*go,*

*he wished*

*he could devour her right there and then.*

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*That was until Victoria bit him forcefully,*

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*The bite that she had put her strength into made the man wince in pain and step back.*

*A bloody taste lingered between their lips and teeth, and even when Alaric pulled away, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.*

*Slap!*

*Victoria slapped him across the face after he detached himself from her.*

*Alaric didn't dodge, and his handsome face turned the other way from the sheer force of the slap.*

*"You shameless pig."*

*After scolding him, Victoria turned around and left without looking back. As she walked away, she heard Alaric's voice from behind.*

*"I meant what I said."*

*Victoria sneered a few times upon hearing those words. "Yeah? So what? Do I have to believe you just because you said it?"*

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*She then quickly left without sparing him another glance.*

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*As Alaric stood silently in place, he reached out to touch the spot where she had bitten him.*

*It hurt, but the taste of kissing her was so sweet and beautiful.*

*The mixture of pain and sweetness was simply addictive.*

*He closed his eyes and quietly let out a sigh.*

*After returning to her office, Victoria went to the restroom to wash her face and rinse her mouth. She only managed to calm down when she had gurgled several times and splashed her face with cold water three times.*

*Looking at her reflection in the mirror, she repeatedly reminded herself, I must not let him entice me.*

*He was someone she had once liked, and the fact that she could fall for him meant that he had qualities that attracted her.*

*Now that he had appeared before her again and said those things, she had to be*

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*cautious so as to not fall for him like she used to easily.*

*After giving herself a mental prep talk, her gaze turned cold once again. She went out and wiped away the remaining moisture on her face with a tissue.*

*Knock. Knock.*

*“Come in.”*

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*Henry then entered with some documents in his hands. Seeing Victoria wiping her face, he asked, “Is something the matter wrong? Why are you washing your face now?”*

*Victoria knew that Henry was a gossip lover. After giving it some thought, she chose to ask what he was here for instead of answering him.*

*“Ah, I brought you these documents.”*

*“Just leave them on the desk, please. I’ll look at them later.” Victoria was emotionally tired at the moment and had no intention of looking at the papers immediately. When she finished her sentence, she saw Henry still standing at the same place. “Is there anything else?” she asked as she raised her gaze to look at him.*

*At this, Henry raised an eyebrow and walked forward to place the documents on the*

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*desk. “I’m fine, but what about you, Miss Selwyn? I heard that Mr. Cadogan came to look for you.”*

*“Where did you hear that from?”*

*He wasn’t here when Alaric was here, so how did he know that?*

*“A young man came running in a hurry and told me you were in trouble. He told me to*

*help you. How do you think I knew?"*

*Victoria remained silent for a moment. As she thought about it, she scrutinized him with narrowed eyes. "Why didn't you come and help me, then?"*

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*"How am I supposed to help? It's a relationship problem between two adults. The most I can do is nag you for a bit when you come back."*

*She no longer replied after hearing that.*

*Henry looked at her slightly redder-than-usual lips and smiled. "Besides, I couldn't have*

*helped even if I came to you. Was I supposed to watch you both have a chat from the side?"*

*Right after he said that, he received a cold glance from Victoria, who huffed, "Mr. Poole,*

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you may get busy with work if there is nothing else."*

*"Oooh, I see you don't like me that much. Fine, I'll continue working."*

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*After he left, Victoria irritably rubbed her forehead and finally leaned back and lay down,*

*no longer thinking about anything.*

*When Victoria went to pick up her children, she coincidentally received a call from*

*Fiona asking her to have dinner together in the evening.*

*Since Victoria didn't have any plans for the night, she agreed to it.*

*"I'm almost at the school," Fiona told her. "I'll pick them up and take them to the mall.*

*You can come and find us later."*

*"Sure."*

*The mall was crowded in the evening. When Victoria found Fiona and the children, they were riding bumper cars while taking tons of candid photos.*

*As she walked over, she noticed that Fiona posted the photos online after she edited them.*

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*Fiona was in the midst of editing when she saw Victoria and greeted her. "You're here!*

*Was the traffic bad?"*

*"It's not too bad. It was neither congested nor smooth,"*

*When they were talking, Fiona stopped editing the photos. She only resumed what she was doing after the conversation.*

*Fiona had always enjoyed posting pictures of Nathan and Nicole on her social media, which was why Victoria, who had long been accustomed to it, didn't say anything.*

*Before Fiona posted the photos, she asked Victoria, "It has been some time since we last took a photo together. Should we take one now?"*

*Victoria nodded and looked toward Fiona's camera,*

*Fiona had just posed when she remembered something at the sight of Victoria's beautiful and smooth face on the screen. Her expression turned unnatural in that instant.*

*Mr. Cadogan seems to be interested in Victoria. If I posted a photo with her...*

*Thinking of this, Fiona immediately put her phone away.*

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*Victoria swiftly looked at her in confusion. "What's wrong?"*

*"It's nothing." Fiona forced a smile. "I just suddenly feel a bit hungry."*

*Victoria didn't think much of it. When she heard Fiona say she was hungry, she suggested, "Let's eat now. What do you feel like eating?"*

*"Anything is fine for me. It depends on what Nathan and Nicole want to eat."*

*After discussing it, they decided to go for a barbecue.*

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*There happened to be a barbecue restaurant on the second floor of the mall, and when the three of them entered, there was only one table available for four people.*

*Other guests would have to wait in line after the four of them sat down.*

*Fiona sighed. "This place is really popular. Good thing we didn't take any photos just now, or we would be the ones waiting in line."*

*Victoria only smiled. She then picked up her phone and was about to scan the QR code on the table to order.*

*"Let me do it! Let me do it!" Fiona stopped her. "I was the one who invited the three of you, so let me buy this meal."*

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*"It's alright. It's the same no matter who's paying."*

*"In that case, don't try to fight with me over who's paying."*

*Feeling helpless, Victoria could only give up.*

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*Afterward, Fiona opened an application to scan the code in front of her.*

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*Victoria watched on beside her, and from the corner of her eye, she seemed to see a WhatsApp chat with a particularly familiar profile picture being pinned by Fiona.*

*Victoria immediately froze. Am I seeing things? The profile picture of the chat that*

*Fiona pinned looks exactly the same as... Silent Night's profile picture...*

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*Meanwhile, Fiona hadn't noticed anything strange as she happily started ordering their*

*meal.*

*“Since Nathan and Nicole are still too young, it’s better for them not to eat spicy food. But I feel like having some chili. How about we order meat with two types of marinades?”*

*Fiona chattered for a while, but when she realized no one was responding, she raised her head and saw Victoria staring blankly at Fiona’s phone screen, seemingly lost in thought.*

*“Victoria?” Fiona waved in front of her, bringing Victoria out of her stupor.*

*“What are you thinking about? We’re here to eat, but you’re zoning out. You’re not still thinking about work, are you?”*

*Upon hearing this, Victoria looked at Fiona and lightly chewed on her lower lip.*

*“Sorry, you...” She seemed hesitant to speak.*

*“Why apologize?” Fiona reached out and patted her head. “There is no need for an apology between us. I just feel sorry that you’re working too hard. Don’t think about Mon,*

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*work while we’re eating, okay? Live a little.”*

*Indeed, Victoria shouldn’t think about other things during the meal. She decided she would ask about the profile picture after they finished eating.*

*Perhaps she had mistaken it since she only caught a glimpse of the profile picture.*

*However, she was now curious about how exactly Fiona got Silent Night’s number if it indeed was Silent Night.*

*“Nicole, Nathan, what do you want to eat? Come, let’s choose something.”*

*The two kids immediately gathered around Fiona to look at the menu. Victoria, too, forced herself to snap back to reality and focus on ordering the food instead of dwelling on other matters.*

*During the meal, Fiona couldn't help but pick up her phone again and took some pictures of the children eating. She even went out and bought a few popsicles.*

*It was already past 9.00PM by the time they were done with dinner.*

*Feeling full and sleepy, the children each hung onto both of Victoria's arms, their eyes a mere slit as they started to fall asleep.*

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*"Oh my, they're so cute. I wonder when I will ever have two adorable babies like them," Fiona exclaimed with a sigh.*

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*Victoria looked at Fiona in front of her and glanced at the two kids beside them. It didn't seem appropriate to ask Fiona in front of them.*

*"Come on. Let's head back."*

*"Sure, let's go."*

*Since they had each come in their own cars, they would go home separately. Victoria proceeded to ask the children to wait in the car because she had something to ask Fiona.*

*"Kids, wait in the car. I have something to ask Fiona."*

*The children nodded obediently upon hearing this.*

*"Got it, Mommy. We won't eavesdrop."*

*"My good babies," Victoria cooed before closing the car door and turning to Fiona who was now looking at her after overhearing her words.*

*“Victoria, what is it that you want to tell me?”*

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*Victoria gazed at her without a word at first. She then spoke softly, “When you were ordering just now, I accidentally saw a familiar profile picture on your phone.”*

*Fiona’s heart skipped a beat at those words.*

*A familiar profile picture...*

*The people that both Victoria and Fiona knew were mutually acquainted with the two of them. If it was one of those people, Victoria would never have asked Fiona about it.*

*Possibly out of guilt, Fiona immediately thought about the man from the bar.*

*“Don’t be nervous. I’m just asking. I might have seen it wrongly.” Victoria tried to calm her down when she noticed Fiona’s silence.*

*Fiona took advantage of the situation and replied, “You probably did. We know the same people, no? If there’s someone you’re not familiar with, then it must be someone you don’t know.”*

*The corners of Victoria’s lips lifted ever so slightly when she heard those words, but still, she gently probed, “You’re right, but I can’t help being curious. Can I take a look at your phone?”*

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*Fiona blinked, then awkwardly laughed. “Victoria, there’s really nothing for you to worry about. The profile picture is probably just a coincidence.”*

*Victoria didn't think much of it at first, but seeing Fiona guarding her phone to prevent Victoria from taking even one look made her suspicious.*

*Although it was impolite to ask to see someone else's phone, she and Fiona had a relationship where they would casually look at each other's phones.*

*Just recently when Fiona had been passionately trying to set Victoria up with Bane, she would always grab Victoria's phone whenever it rang.*

*"Give it to me, give it to me. I bet Bane's sending you a message again. Oh my, it really is*

*him. I'll help you reply to him."*

*She would then send Bane a cheesy message with Victoria's phone.*

*Because it happened too many times, Bane eventually realized that it was Fiona's doing. Thankfully, there were no misunderstandings because of Fiona's actions.*

*Considering how close Victoria was with Fiona on top of everyone being mutual friends, Victoria didn't think much of it back then.*

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*But now...*

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*She simply wanted to see Fiona's phone because of a profile picture she thought was familiar, but Fiona kept making excuses to reject her.*

*Victoria looked at Fiona with unwavering eyes and made one last request.*

*"I'm not thinking of doing anything but confirming my guess."*

*Fiona, feeling torn about what she should do, bit her bottom lip.*

*Victoria had always been one who knew when to push and pull. In the past, she would only ask once and never bring it up again if the other person refused her. Her asking a second time now only meant she genuinely cared about this matter.*

*As a friend, Fiona should have handed her phone over without hesitation to let Victoria see.*

*But... there was a voice in her heart telling her not to.*

*I can't do it.*

*She would see my conversation with Mr. Cadogan if I show her.*

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*At this point, she felt too ashamed to show up in front of that man. She had bombarded him with long strings of messages, but he didn't show any interest in her at all. Before him, she was always the one who was being pursued by men, but this man...*

*Fiona wouldn't mind showing her vulnerabilities to her close friend in the past. After all, she had always had thick skin. But ever since the incident last time, Fiona felt a rift between her and Victoria.*

*She didn't really want to lay it all out in front of Victoria.*

*With this thought in mind, Fiona could only put on an awkward smile. "I'm sorry, Victoria. I'm sure you saw it wrong. I haven't added any new contacts recently, and the ones before are the ones you know."*

*At this point in the conversation, Victoria didn't feel the need to say anything else. She would seem like she was forcing Fiona if she kept insisting.*

*After a long pause, she smiled again.*

*"Alright, I won't make things difficult for you if it's inconvenient."*

*"Victoria..." Fiona bit her lower lip again. She couldn't believe that Victoria didn't get angry.*

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*“Let’s go back now. It’s late, and it’s not safe for a woman to go home alone. Whoever gets home first should send a message to confirm their safety.”*

*After saying that, Victoria even patted Fiona on the shoulder and whispered, “Go on.”*

*8/8*

*Fiona felt overwhelmed with guilt by her friend’s gentleness. She tightly chewed on her lower lip and thought of something. Just as Victoria was about to turn around and leave, Fiona grabbed her by the sleeve.*

*“D–Don’t go. You can have a look at my phone.”*

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*As if she was accepting her death with open arms, Fiona passed her phone to Victoria after she said that.*

*“Take a look.”*

*Victoria was surprised by the sudden change when she was about to leave.*

*She looked at Fiona with surprised eyes.*

*“Actually... I won’t insist if you’re not comfortable with it.”*

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*“There’s nothing inconvenient about it.” Fiona gritted her teeth. “I used to always look at your phone, right? It’s normal for you to look at mine too. It would be unfair if I only want*

*to see yours without letting you see mine. Here.”*

*After saying that, she directly pushed the phone into Victoria’s arms.*

*Victoria held the phone in her hand as a faint smile appeared on her lips. “Thank you, Fiona.”*

*She then let Fiona unlock the phone. Before placing her finger on the fingerprint sensor,*

*Fiona uneasily decided to be truthful.*

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*“I’m telling you this beforehand. I have only added the person from the bar recently. It’s the one I told you about.”*

*Victoria’s heart skipped a beat.*

*She added Alaric?*

*Then, that profile picture....*

*“You didn’t add anyone else?” Victoria asked.*

*“No.” Fiona’s expression was resolute. “I only added him. Victoria, you can’t blame me even if there’s something between him and me. After all, I’ve been pursuing him for nearly half a year. It’s normal for him to be a little stubborn.”*

*There was no way Victoria wouldn’t know what Fiona was trying to say when she heard those words. The reason Fiona didn’t want Victoria to see her phone earlier was probably because she was afraid it would affect their friendship.*

*With these thoughts in mind, Victoria reached out and hugged Fiona.*

*“Don’t worry, I won’t let anyone affect our friendship just like that.”*

*“T–Those are your words, not mine! Whoever lies will have their pants catch on fire!”*

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*“Mhm, I said it.”*

*3/0*

*After confirming that Victoria was telling the truth, Fiona unlocked the phone. Since the WhatsApp application was still open, the first thing Victoria saw was Fiona’s WhatsApp*

*interface as soon as the screen was unlocked.*

*A strikingly familiar profile picture came into view.*

*Victoria stood there with the phone in her hand, staring blankly at that profile picture.*

*It was the same picture.*

*She had clicked on Silent Night's profile photo when she first added him. She even took a few more glances at it because it was a picture of a night sky.*

*And since she had a decently good memory, she still remembered the picture clearly.*

*However, she swiftly took out her phone in case she remembered it wrongly.*

*Fiona was also shocked when she saw the two identical profile pictures.*

*"He... he added you too? When... did you add each other?"*

*Victoria had no intention to hide the truth. Through pursed lips, she asked, "Do you*

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*know Silent Night?"*

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*"Yeah, isn't he the one who often gives gifts in Nathan and Nicole's live streams? What about him?"*

*"This person is Silent Night."*

*"Huh? You mean that Silent Night and the Mr. Cadogan I know use the same profile picture? Or..."*

*Victoria first opened the account's profile information on Fiona's phone. After she took a deep breath, she checked Silent Night's profile information on her own phone.*

*When the name, account, and all the information matched, Victoria held the phone and stood silently in place.*

*Even Fiona beside her quieted down. It took a long time before she muttered, "H-How*

*could this be? They are the same person? How is this possible?"*

*Victoria continued to press her lips together and said nothing.*

*However, Fiona seemed to have thought of something as she instinctively muttered,*

*"No wonder..."*

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*Upon hearing that, Victoria suddenly raised her head, not wanting to miss any information.*

*"No wonder what?"*

*"I..." Fiona looked troubled as she bit her lower lip. "Remember that time you left the children to me because you had some things to take care of?"*

*"Right, what about it?"*

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*"I took a photo and posted it on my WhatsApp Status, and when Mr. Cadogan saw it, he gave me a call."*

*Victoria's breath hitched at those words. She thought she could feel something threatening to burst out of her. Her face then turned pale, and the ground seemed to shake beneath her feet.*

*"And then? What did he ask?"*

*"He asked about Nathan and Nicole, and... I thought he was a fan of theirs, so I didn't think much of it and told him everything. I'm sorry, Victoria. I... also told him about you ...*

*I really didn't know it would turn out like this."*

*Fiona felt extremely conflicted when she told Victoria this. Worried that she had made a*

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*grave mistake, she began twiddling her fingers.*

*On the other hand, everything came to light for Victoria at this moment.*

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*There was a possibility that Alaric had known everything about the secret she had been hiding from him.*

*She had unexpectedly bumped into Alaric during her meeting with Silent Night, and when she was taken away by Alaric, Silent Night didn't go to their rendezvous.*

*The children said that Silent Night treated them well, and he was even willing to eat their leftover burger buns.*

*And Alaric's hesitation on several occasions—these all indicated that he had long known the truth.*

*And she actually thought she had hidden it well.*

*Surprise, surprise...*

*Seeing Victoria standing there as if her soul had been sucked out, Fiona couldn't help but feel worried.*

*"What's wrong? Victoria, did something happen? Is there anything I can do to help?"*

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*"Victoria? Victoria!"*

*7/0*

*Victoria only snapped back to her senses after Fiona continued to call her a few times.*

*However, even when she had recovered, she only quietly stared at Fiona.*

*Fiona felt something was off with her behavior and reached out, waving a hand in front of Victoria's face.*

*Victoria finally came back to her senses after a long time, and she smiled again as she*

*reassured Fiona, "I'm fine. I'm sorry for making you worry."*

*Relieved that she could finally communicate with her normally, Fiona let out a sigh of relief.*

*"I'm glad you know! You almost gave me a heart attack when you suddenly stopped talking. But seriously, what's going on? Are Silent Night and Mr. Cadogan the same person? You and him-"*

*"Sorry, Fiona," Victoria interrupted her mid-sentence. "Can I tell you about this some other time?"*

*Fiona could only nod.*

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*"If he comes to you again and asks about me, can you keep it a secret?" Victoria added.*

*Fiona replied awkwardly, "Of course, I must have lost my mind when I told him everything before. Don't worry. I won't talk about you anymore."*

*"Okay. We'll be leaving then."*

*Seeing that she was about to leave, Fiona couldn't help but suggest, "I think it's better to get a driver in your current state. I don't think you're in the best mental state. It might not be safe for you to drive right now."*

*Victoria mulled over Fiona's suggestion before eventually taking out her phone to get a driver to send her and the children home.*

*As the driver was only nearby, they were here to pick up the family of three in no time. Fiona heaved a sigh of relief and left after she watched the driver drive off.*

*Sitting in the back seat with the two children, Victoria looked out of the window and fell into deep thought.*

*So Silent Night is Alaric.*

*Silent Night...*

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*How did she not guess it earlier?*

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*“What’s the matter, Mommy?”*

*She must have been lost in her thoughts for too long that the little ones began to sense that something was amiss. When she turned her head, she saw Nicole and Nathan looking at her with worry all over their faces.*

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*Victoria pursed her lips and forced a smile after a while.*

*“It’s nothing. I was just thinking about work.”*

*As innocent as Nicole was, she didn’t doubt any further and accepted her mother’s explanation. However, Nathan still wore a concerned expression and he didn’t say a word.*

*“Just stop thinking about it, Mommy. You are done with work for today!” Nicole stood up and hugged her arm while whining in a soft and adorable voice.*

*“Alright, I know. Well, I have some questions for the two of you. Permission to ask?”*

*Nicole nodded in reply.*

*“Did Mr. Night go to your school today during lunchtime?”*

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*Both the children shook their heads in unison.*

*Upon seeing their response, Victoria narrowed her eyes slightly.*

*“He went yesterday and the day before, but not today?”*

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*“Uh–huh.” Nicole obediently nodded. “Zack said his uncle must be busy with work, so he*

*couldn’t come today. But another mister brought us our meal on behalf of Mr. Night.”*

*“Another man?”*

*Victoria lowered her gaze. She was with Alaric during lunchtime, and if Alaric was indeed Silent Night, he wouldn’t have had a chance to go to the school to see Nicole and Nathan.*

*“Yup! I think he’s Mr. Night’s assistant. Mommy, Mr. Night is amazing. He even has an assistant. I could tell right away that he must be very rich. Also, I helped you ask something, Mommy. Mr. Night is single.”*

*Victoria didn’t answer Nicole, who was secretly hoping to make Silent Night her father. She couldn’t believe how coincidental things were.*

*Nicole had never wanted anyone else in the past who treated Victoria well to be her Mon.*

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*father, but when it came to Silent Night....*

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*Thinking about this, Victoria held Nicole in her arms and gently stroked her hair as she asked softly, “Nicole, tell me honestly. Did Mr. Night try to persuade you into thinking of him as your daddy?”*

*When it came to this topic, Victoria deliberately spoke in a more solemn tone. She was*

worried that the girl would be too naive to understand.

After thinking for a while, she added, "What I mean is, did he bring up the topic of being your daddy, or did you bring it up first?"

Nicole pondered for a long time before answering, "Mommy, I was the one who brought it up first."

Quietly, Victoria took a deep breath and chuckled. "Nicole, please tell me the truth. You can't speak on behalf of Mr. Night just because you like him."

"But Mommy, I'm telling the truth."

"Nicole..."

At that moment, Nathan, who had remained silent, suddenly spoke up. "Mommy, I can

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testify that what Nicole said is true."

Upon hearing this, Nicole paused and looked at Nathan beside her.

Nicole and Nathan were different. Nicole, who was more naive, might not understand nor have the capacity to understand what Victoria meant. However, Nathan was the type that meant every word he said. If he said that it was true, it could never be false.

"So, what you're saying is that Nicole was the one who brought it up?"

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Nathan nodded. As he recalled what happened that day, he began to tell Victoria the whole story. No matter how good his memory was, he was still a child. Because of that, he spoke in choppy sentences about some of the things he managed to remember. He said whatever that came to mind. Sitting next to him, Nicole quietly listened, but she would occasionally echo her brother's words.

*By the time the conversation came to an end, Victoria already had an idea of what exactly transpired that day.*

*She eventually let out a resigned sigh before she reached out and lightly pinched Nicole's nose.*

*"You silly girl. You want him to be your daddy just because he is nice to you! Didn't I*

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*teach you not to easily trust strangers?"*

*5/8*

*"Hmm!" Nicole covered her nose and pouted. "But Mommy, I don't think Mr. Night is a bad guy. I like him a lot!"*

*Victoria came to a halt upon hearing that.*

*"You like him, huh?"*

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*"Yeah!" Nicole gave a big nod. "Mr. Night feels like Daddy. Mommy, can you make Mr. Night my and Nathan's daddy, please? Nathan likes Mr. Night a lot, too!"*

*Nicole turned to look at Nathan.*

*When the boy met her eyes, there was a sudden hint of panic in his gaze. He even looked like he started avoiding looking at her.*

*"Nathan?"*

*"N-No, Mommy. I d-don't like Mr. Night."*

*As someone who raised the children, Victoria knew the kids' personalities better than anyone else. This was the first time Victoria had seen her son nervously avoid her.*

*Mon.*

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*It seemed like not only Nicole but Nathan also liked “Silent Night“.*

*It was a pity, though.*

*6/8*

*If Silent Night was exactly whom he claimed he was, Nicole could still see a possibility of working things out with him.*

*But Silent Night is...*

*After Victoria stopped talking, silence filled the car. Nicole eventually even fell asleep in Victoria’s arms.*

*When they arrived home, Victoria carried her to the room. She happened to run into Nathan waiting for her at the door as she came out.*

*“Mommy.” Nathan’s youthful face was laced with nervousness as he looked up at*

*Victoria. “Do you not like us being with Mr. Night?”*

*Victoria suddenly didn’t have an answer to that question. She only crouched down and rubbed Nathan’s head.*

*“It’s late. How about you hit the sack, hmm?”*

*Despite looking worried, Nathan ended up obediently nodding.*

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*After the kids went back to their rooms, Victoria returned to her own room. She took out her phone and looked at her WhatsApp which she had added Silent Night.*

*7/2*

*With a thought in mind, she clicked on the search bar and typed in a certain person’s*

*phone number.*

*After typing the last digit, she clicked search.*

*As expected, the search results corresponded to Silent Night's account.*

*Sitting on the couch, Victoria fell into silence with her phone in her hand.*

*He has been watching the live stream for a long time, giving gifts to the children without doing much else.*

*I wonder when he found out the truth.*

*Was it when he first appeared in the live stream?*

*She quickly dismissed the thought.*

*I don't think so. If he had known at that time, he wouldn't have only sent gifts without showing himself.*

*11:11 Mon, 3 Jul*

*Chapter 304 Speak on Behalf of Mr Night*

*8/8*

*Alaric was someone who took action. Based on his recent actions and the information he obtained from Fiona, he should have found out when he returned from Jasea. That was why he remained silent for a long time after adding her and suddenly messaged her.*

*Right. It must have been during that time. So, if he doesn't meet me tomorrow, he will definitely go to Nathan and Nicole at noon.*

*If she wanted to make the final confirmation, it would be at noon tomorrow.*

*1111 Mon, 3 Jul A*

*Chapter 305*

*The next day, Victoria, as usual, sent the children to school as though nothing had*

*happened yesterday.*

*She went back to the company after dropping off the kids..*

*Once she arrived at the office, she received a call from Fiona..*

*“Victoria, were you really alright last night?”*

*Although they had informed each other when they got home yesterday, Fiona decided to ask again at the thought of Victoria’s expression last night.*

*“I’m alright. Don’t worry about it.”*

*“Are you sure? But you seem-”*

*Victoria let out a soft sigh. “I’m really fine. It’s just that there are things I need to handle.*

*I’ll tell you everything once I’ve sorted them out.”*

*“Okay then. Let me know as soon as you’re done. Don’t tell Summer first.”*

*The last sentence made Victoria chuckle.*

*1/9*

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*“Okay, okay. Both of you will be the first ones I inform. We can have a call in the group, okay?”*

*2/9*

*“Good.”*

*Satisfied, Fiona finally hung up after that.*

*After the call ended, Victoria raised her hand and took a look at the time.*

*There were still a few hours until noon.*

*Even though she knew that getting anxious over this wouldn’t help with the situation in any way, she couldn’t get productive at work no matter how many times she tried.*

*Even though she was an adult who knew she shouldn’t let her emotions get in the way*

*of her work, she couldn't help but waver now.*

*She somehow managed to get through the morning, and when it was time for a lunch break, she immediately shut down her computer, grabbed her bag, and hurried outside. But when she reached the doorway, she stopped in her tracks.*

*No, I can't go now.*

*Mon,*

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*3/9*

*She was off from work for now, but it might not be the children's recess period yet. She had to wait a bit longer and carefully time her arrival so that she could catch them red-handed.*

*If she had gone earlier and ended up being noticed by Alaric, he might choose to not show up in front of her at all.*

*Reason brought Victoria back to her senses, and she sat back at her computer desk while staring at the time. She waited until it was about time before leaving the office.*

*As she walked out, she coincidentally bumped into Henry who came to see her.*

*"I noticed that you hadn't come down, so I came to ask if you want to have lunch together."*

*To his surprise, Victoria hurriedly brushed past his shoulder as soon as he finished speaking and threw out, "I'm not eating. I have something to deal with at noon."*

*After saying that, she disappeared like the wind.*

*She was already nowhere to be seen when Henry turned his head.*

*"What could be so urgent for her to rush out like that?" He couldn't help scratching his head*

*By the time Victoria arrived at the school, the children who didn't stay for lunch had already been picked up by their parents. Because of that, the school gates were closed. With how quiet and empty the entrance was, Victoria immediately noticed another car—the same black car she had seen before—parked there.*

*Since she had seen it before, and considering the recent events, Victoria was certain that it belonged to Alaric.*

*Her intuition rarely steered her in the wrong direction.*

*She had felt someone watching her from the black car last time, but since she hadn't seen anyone inside, she thought that she had gotten it wrong.*

*But now, Victoria was convinced that her intuition was always right.*

*Alaric is right inside the black car.*

*This was the only overwhelming thought that consumed Victoria's mind at this very moment.*

*Mon,*

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*After she took out the car key, she got out, closed the door, and walked slowly toward the school gate.*

*5/9*

*Since she came to pick up the children every day, the security guard at the school gate recognized her. They greeted her when they saw her approaching.*

*"Miss Selwyn! May I know what brought you here at this hour?"*

*Victoria smiled at him and replied softly, "I happen to have some free time today and wanted to come and see the children. Can I go in now?"*

*Hearing that, the security guard opened the gate and nodded with a smile. "Of course.*

*Please come in."*

*Victoria nodded in return. As she walked in, she asked, "Did any other parents come today?"*

*"No, I don't think so."*

*Her heart skipped a beat at the reply. "None?"*

*Did I make a mistake? Or did he know that I would come?*

*Scratching his head, the security guard seemingly remembered something when he*

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*6/9*

*suddenly said, "Oh, I apologize. I almost forgot about this man. I heard he usually came to deliver lunch for his child. He has been coming quite often lately."*

*Often? Deliver lunch?*

*With this information, Victoria finally had an idea.*

*This person delivering lunch was the one she was looking for.*

*"By the way, Miss Selwyn, I often see your children playing with that man."*

*"Thank you. I'll go and take a look."*

*"Alright, go ahead. You could probably have a meal together."*

*Have a meal together? Victoria only inwardly scoffed at those words. That is out of the question.*

*Today, Alaric brought some fruit cocktails made by a pastry chef he specially hired. Not only did the dessert look beautiful, but it also tasted exquisite.*

*As Nicole stuffed her mouth full, Alaric watched her from the side with a handkerchief*

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*which he occasionally used to wipe her mouth in his hand.*

*7/9*

*Feeling embarrassed after the man did that a few times, the girl pushed his hand away and whined, "Mr. Night, have something to eat. Don't worry about me!"*

*"It's okay. I'm not hungry."*

*"But Mr. Night, you haven't had lunch, right?"*

*"I will eat later. Go ahead and have more."*

*Nicole looked away and pondered for a moment, but instead of eating by herself, she picked up Alaric's spoon and scooped a piece of chicken.*

*"Let me feed you, Mr. Night."*

*Alaric paused at her action.*

*He never thought that there would come a day when his daughter would offer to feed him.*

*As his hardened heart softened inch by inch, he gently stroked the back of Nicole's head. "I really am not hungry."*

*Mon.*

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*"Mr. Night, please eat!" Nicole persistently urged.*

*8/9*

*Seeing the girl struggling to hold the spoon up, Alaric lowered his head slightly and ate the piece of chicken meat she fed him.*

*"Done. Now, you eat."*

*"Okay! You have to eat too, Mr. Night."*

*Surprisingly, Alaric found the piece of meat in his mouth delicious. Food had always*

*been mere sustenance for him in the past.*

*But now...*

*With that in mind, Alaric looked at the little girl with an even softer gaze. He was completely unaware that there was a pair of eyes behind him watching this scene all along.*

*Victoria stood still, and she almost burst into laughter despite her anger when she saw Nicole feeding Alaric with the spoon.*

*As the children's mother, she had never been fed by Nicole. It hadn't been more than a few days since Alaric got close to the kids, and yet Nicole was already so partial to him!*

*Mon,*

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*While speechless, Victoria also found it alarming.*

*Alaric had approached and won over the two children without her consent or knowledge.*

*What would happen if I hadn't noticed this now?*

*Would the kids turn to him instead?*

*She immediately felt a coldness envelop her at those thoughts.*