

Departure with a Belly Chapter 311

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Chapter 311

In the end, Victoria got into the car, and they left the villa area in no time. Before entering the main road, Alaric asked Victoria for Bane's house address.

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It had been over five years, and Alaric ground his teeth, having to say Bane's name once again.

"Bane?" Victoria was surprised to hear the name but quickly came to realize something and gave Alaric Bane's address after a moment's silence.

It took only about ten seconds in total.

Alaric was rather surprised she'd give him the address so quickly, believing she'd argue with him, but little did he expect that she'd understand so quickly.

With the destination now set, the car quickly turned onto the main road. Their journey to Bane's was deadly silent.

Victoria sank deep into her thoughts. It had never occurred to her that Bane would take her children away.

She was so certain that Alaric wanted to take custody of the twins that she assumed

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he had taken them away behind her back because she wouldn't let him have them. But now, with his words and upon careful consideration of what the teacher had said, she came around.

The teacher had mistakenly taken Bane as the twins' father before, so it wouldn't be surprising for the teacher to continue assuming so. Meanwhile, she, having been influenced by her subjective consciousness, thought the teacher was referring to Alaric. This indirectly indicated that the twins were Alaric's, wasn't it?!

Victoria leaned her forehead against her palm, feeling a sense of helplessness against her own stupidity. She was rather composed most of the time. However, once it involved the children, she'd turn impulsive and could never sit down and think for a moment.

If Alaric hadn't reminded her, she would never have thought Bane would be the one to take her babies away.

Just then, Alaric's phone rang. Victoria took a reflexive glance at it and found that it wasn't the same one as before. The color of this phone was different from the previous one. It was probably his backup phone.

He connected it to the car's Bluetooth and answered the call. "Have you found it?"

Mon,

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"We've retrieved the surveillance footage as fast as we could, Mr. Cadogan. It's been sent to your phone."

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At that, Alaric tugged at his lips. "Well done. Who took them?"

Terrance hesitated for a moment before saying, "I think it's better that you see it for yourself, sir."

After hanging up, Alaric turned to Victoria. "Do you want to take the phone yourself, or should I show you at the next intersection?"

"I'll take it myself," said Victoria after a moment's silence and reached for Alaric's phone.

"The password is your birthday."

His words made Victoria pause for a moment. "I know," she replied bitterly, biting her lip.

What else isn't when even the entry code to your main door is my birthday?!

She entered her own birthday wordlessly, and the page redirected to reveal Terrance's latest. She tapped on it, and it was a video that had been retrieved and edited.

Within a few seconds of playing the video, a tall figure could be seen approaching and squatting down in front of the twins, who were waiting at the school gate. The tall man

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had a gentle and warm aura. Who else could it be but Bane?

Victoria fell silent after watching the video. To think Bane had really taken the twins away. But why didn't he tell me? Had he taken them back to my place or...

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"You done?" Alaric's crisp voice pulled Victoria back to reality, and she locked the *phone* before returning it to him.

Silence filled the inside of the car as Victoria leaned quietly against her seat. Alaric rested his hands on the steering wheel as the car came to a stop at the traffic light intersection ahead, musing for a moment before speaking up, "You think I'm responsible for every bad thing, don't you?"

Victoria remained silent.

"You immediately assumed I took the twins away as soon as they were missing."

"What else was I supposed to think?" Victoria countered. "Haven't you gone to the school every day to see the children, just to take them away one day? Can you honestly say you never thought of taking the twins away?"

"I'm only trying *to* make amends, not-

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"I don't want to talk about it. The traffic light's about to change. Keep your eyes on the road."

Victoria was worry-stricken when she first learned that Alaric hadn't taken the children away, wondering who else could've taken them away.

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Later, when she found out Bane had taken them away but hadn't told her about it, she felt somewhat relieved but still had doubts. Why didn't Bane tell her he had taken the kids away?

Thinking about how she had rejected him so harshly not long ago, Victoria felt a tinge of regret.

She worried Bane would react in anger, but based on her understanding of him, he didn't seem like someone who would do such a thing. However, all these uncertainties had to be answered after she saw her babies with her own eyes.

Alaric didn't argue with her either, as he, too, was worried about the twins.

Surprisingly, Bane's place was not far from Alaric's. It only took about twenty minutes by car to arrive, and as soon as they arrived, Victoria hopped out of the car.

She had originally planned to talk to Bane at once, but when she heard movement

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behind her, she stopped and impeded Alaric. "You should go back."

"What did you say?" Alaric frowned.

“I’ll go in and talk to him myself. Don’t follow.”

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Although he and Bane used to be the best of friends, they had long since fallen out.

She worried the two might clash later and even fight if things got out of hand. How ugly of a scene it’d be?!

It wouldn’t affect her. She was worried about the twins. Nicole and Nathan were still little, and she didn’t want them to witness these unpleasant things.

“Huh!” An icy chuckle escaped Alaric. Mixed with the night wind, it was somewhat indistinct. He took a few steps forward, standing only barely an inch away from Victoria.

“Those kids he took? They aren’t only yours but also mine. I don’t feel at ease letting you go in alone.”

Victoria fell silent for a moment. When she realized his intention, she retorted angrily,

“They are my children! You have nothing to do with them!”

“It’s not on you to decide whether I have anything to do with them.” With that, Alaric held her wrist. “Come, let’s go get our son and daughter.”

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With that, Victoria was taken forward, her whole body being led along.

“Let go of me, Alaric. Are you nuts?! Let go!”

However, Alaric’s grip on her wrist was like a sturdy shackle, no matter how she struggled. “Stop it. Do you want Nathan and Nicole to see us fight?”

Victoria stopped at once.

“You’re worried I’ll have a conflict with Bane in front of the kids, don’t you? Well, I promise that won’t happen, alright?”

Victoria was stunned, surprised that he had read her mind. After a moment of bewilderment, she asked, “How did you know?”

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Alaric pressed the elevator button. It happened to be empty, so he took her right inside.

“You’re an open book.”

Victoria pursed her lips and fell silent but subconsciously touched her face. Am I an open book? When have I become so expressive?

Now that they were already inside the elevator, Victoria tried to wrest her hand away, but Alaric held it tightly.

“Alaric, let go.”

The man smiled in response.

“How will Nicole and Nathan know we came to pick them up together if I let go?”

“Will you let go or not?”

However, Alaric ignored her, turning a deaf ear.

At that, Victoria continued to wrest her wrist away, but seeing that he still refused to let go, she got annoyed and bit his arm.

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Initially, Alaric had no intention of letting go, no matter how much she struggled. He

didn't plan to release the hand he had so skillfully held. After all, she was weaker than her. However, he didn't expect her to suddenly bite him.

Victoria wasn't playing around when she bit him. Her teeth actually sank into his flesh. Alaric felt a surge of pain in his wrist, causing him to grunt and loosen his grip slightly. Taking advantage of that slight loosening, Victoria quickly withdrew her hand from his grasp and took a few steps back, keeping a distance from him.

As she stepped back, Alaric frowned and looked at her. He noticed a hint of vibrant blood staining her lips and stood there in a daze. After a moment, he lowered his head and glanced at his own arm, which had indeed been bruised. So, the crimson on her lips was his blood...

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The bloodstain made Victoria's already alluring lips even more enticing. As Alaric gazed

at her, his eyes darkened involuntarily, and his Adam's apple bobbed.

Victoria, on the other hand, noticed him staring at her after she stepped back. She thought he was upset because she had bitten him and expected him to confront her. Little did she know that his gaze turned increasingly unsettling.

Alaric resembled a famished wolf right then, and she was his prey... He stood motionless, waiting for the right moment to pounce on her and devour her completely.

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A chill ran down Victoria's spine very quickly, and as the color in Alaric's eyes grew deeper, the elevator chimed, dispelling all other thoughts from their minds.

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Victoria attempted to scurry out of the elevator, but she couldn't even take a few steps.

when Alaric pulled her back into his embrace.

“Are you nuts, Alaric Cadogan?! Dare to touch me and see what happens!” she barked, but Alaric only brushed his fingertips over her red lips, wiping away the traces of blood.

Victoria stared at the crimson of his fingertips, frozen in place. It was blood... She hadn't noticed before. So, he was just wiping it off for me?

Upon realizing it, Victoria glanced at his arm, intending to see how the wound was, but he had already lowered his hand, and his sleeve covered the injury, blocking her view.

“Let's go,” he said.

Unable to see his wrist, Victoria gave up and complied.

The place Bane lived was very quiet, and it took a while before someone answered the door when Victoria pressed the doorbell.

The

person who answered the door was none other than Ethan, Bane's assistant. Upon

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seeing Victoria, he greeted her with a welcoming smile. “Miss Selwyn.”

Then, Ethan noticed Alaric standing behind Victoria, emanating a strong possessiveness.

In the next second, the smile on Ethan's face disappeared.

Unfortunately, Victoria's mind was wholly occupied by her two precious babies, so she didn't pay any attention to Ethan's expression. She simply looked inside and asked, “Is Bane inside, Ethan?”

“He is ” Ethan's words were cut short as Victoria rushed in.

Alaric quickly followed after Victoria but was impeded by Ethan.

At that, Alaric shot the assistant a malicious glare, causing the latter to tuck his neck in intimidation and slowly withdraw his hand.

Alaric snorted coldly in response and strode in.

After entering, Victoria could hear Nicole's laughter from a distance, mixed with the gentle voice of an adult male.

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She followed the sound and eventually saw Bane, Nathan, and Nicole on the balcony.

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There were several snacks and toys on the coffee table on the balcony. Nicole's cheeks were puffed up from eating, while Nathan sat somewhat reservedly.

When he saw her, he tugged on Nicole gently, calling her attention. "Nicole, Mommy's here."

Nicole paused her chewing and then looked at Victoria before running toward her in the next second.

Victoria crouched down calmly and embraced the little girl in her arms as Nathan followed closely behind Nicole.

On the other hand, Bane, who had been sitting on the edge of the balcony, stood up.

There was a gentle smile on his lips, and his voice was soft. "Victoria, you're here."

Victoria's eyes met Bane's from a short distance away. She nodded at him and then pursed her lips, *not* saying anything. Instead, she wiped away the crumbs from Nicole's mouth and said, "Look at you, all messy from eating. Are you a chubby piglet?"

"I'm not a chubby piglet! Chubby piglets aren't cute!"

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While the mother and daughter were talking, Bane approached them.

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“I missed Nathan and Nicule when I passed by the school today, so I brought them over

to play. Sorry, I forgot to tell you about it. Hope I didn’t cause you any inconvenience.”

Victoria reluctantly tugged at her lips, about to speak, when a cold voice sounded from behind.

“No inconveniences. We just spent a long time searching anxiously.”

Victoria turned her head to look at Alaric, whose tone wasn’t particularly friendly, and signaled him with her eyes.

Haven’t you promised you wouldn’t have a conflict with Bane? Why are you speaking so aggressively now?!

Bane’s gentle gaze shifted, and his smile lost its warmth as well when he saw Alaric.

But he concealed it well, returning to normal in two shakes as he turned to Victoria.

“Have you looked for a long time? Sorry for forgetting to tell you about this. It was indeed my fault.”

“Don’t worry about it.” Victoria could only smile awkwardly. “Everyone has their moments of carelessness.”

84%

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Bane smiled in response. “You haven’t had dinner, have you? Why don’t you join me?”

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“No, thanks.” Victoria shook her head. “Dinner’s already been made at home. It’ll all go to waste if we stay and eat. Maybe some other time.”

“Alright, I’ll have Ethan drive you then.”

However, before Victoria could refuse, Alaric spoke on her behalf, “No need. I’ll drive her.”

Bane, who hadn’t wanted to acknowledge him, finally raised his gaze and looked at Alaric.

Their eyes met in the air, and Victoria immediately sensed an unusual atmosphere.

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Staying any longer will definitely lead to trouble.

Alarmed, Victoria picked Nicole up at once and said, “No need to have Ethan send me home. It’s pretty late. He should go home for dinner too. I’ll take Nicole and Nathan home myself.”

Sure enough, Bane’s attention was drawn to her as soon as she spoke.

“Are you sure you don’t need a ride?” Facing her, Bane could still maintain a gentle expression.

“I’m sure. I can manage on my own.”

“Alright then, take care and call me if you need anything.”

“Sure.” Victoria nodded. “Got it.”

Before they left, Bane handed a small bag to Nicole. “This is for Nicole and Nathan.”

“No-”

“Just take it. Nicole already accepted it earlier.”

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Unfortunately, Victoria had no choice but to let Nicole take the small bag. After bidding Bane farewell, she prepared to leave when Alaric, who had been standing aside, suddenly approached her and stooped down to pick up Nathan, lifting him up in his arms.

Startled, the little boy instinctively held onto Alaric's neck, his tiny body tensing up. It was his first time being in Alaric's arms, and it felt... So comforting. It feels completely different from being held by other misters.

Victoria didn't make much of it either, as she only wanted to leave as soon as possible. Bane, on the other hand, stood expressionlessly rooted to the spot, watching as the two of them left, each holding a child in their arms.

Moments later, Ethan went up to Bane with indignation, saying, "Mr. Morison, this man actually had the audacity to come to your doorstep. It's outrageous."

Bane snorted in response but didn't reply to him. Instead, he returned to the balcony, sat down, and picked up the twins' leftover drinks.

At that, Ethan went up to Bane and said, "Sir, the twins have drunk from it. Let me get you a new one."

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"It's fine."

With that, Bane took a couple of sips from the cup, and Ethan, observing the scene, found his thoughts incredibly complicated.

It was evident that Bane truly cared for the twins as if they were his own. Even though they weren't his biological children, his love for Victoria was so profound that he didn't mind. Otherwise, why would he eat the leftovers from the twins?

As much as Ethan found the twins adorable and wished he had a pair like them of his own, he wouldn't eat the leftovers they left behind. However, if they were his own children, he would happily do so.

If Mr. Morison could be together with Miss Selwyn, he would surely treat her and her children incredibly well. But lately...

That day at the hospital, he found Bane leaning against the wall from a distance, with his tousled hair falling down and covering his eyes.

He wasn't wearing his glasses; they were held in his hand, and the lenses were even broken.

Grave grimness surrounded him, and Ethan could feel the terrifying energy emanating

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from him without even looking at his face.

Having witnessed Bane's past terrifying nature, Ethan thought the man had changed for the better in these five years, and to suddenly see Bane like this again, he found it difficult to accept.

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Hence, Ethan stood there for a while, mentally preparing himself, before finally approaching Bane, who lifted his head when he heard the footsteps. "You're here. Take care of the rest."

"Yes, sir." Ethan nodded, not even daring to look Bane in the eyes. "I will handle everything. Rest assured."

"Mm." Bane left after entrusting Ethan with the issue.

Meanwhile, Ethan felt an impending storm as he stood in place, watching his lonely

figure recede into the distance.

He figured something must've happened between Bane and Victoria, and sure enough, Bane didn't leave the house for the following consecutive days. Instead, he stayed silently in his spot. He didn't seek out Victoria either, nor did Victoria come to see him. It was as though the two were strangers, suddenly losing contact.

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Until this day...

Bane barely had his lunch when he put his spoon down and said to Ethan, "Ethan, pick up Nicole and Nathan after school. I miss them."

Ethan nodded, obliging at once. "Alright, Mr. Morison, we'll go later."

go

With that, Ethan accompanied Bane to the kindergarten and brought the twins home.

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During the car ride, Ethan asked, "Mr. Morison, Miss Selwyn probably doesn't *know* that we've taken Nathan and Nicole with us. Should we inform her so that she doesn't worry?"

"Haven't we already informed her when we came?" Bane smiled at him.

Although it was a gentle smile, it sent shivers down Ethan's spine. He shut up at once, for they didn't notify Victoria at all, despite Bane's claim that they did...

He dared not speak further, afraid that the blame would eventually fall on him. After all, he was just an assistant, and many things were beyond his control.

He would only do as his superior said.

Snapping back to reality, Ethan turned to look at Bane.

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The terrifying aura had returned to Bane. Ethan could only hope that Victoria would
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come around soon and return to Bane, or not even he would know what would happen if things continued like this.

In his contemplation, Ethan suddenly noticed Bane's gaze shifting downstairs.

Following his line of sight, Ethan saw Victoria holding Nicole as they walked out, with Alaric carrying Nathan closely behind them.

The man was tall and the woman delicate; their figures perfectly matched under the glow of the streetlights.

Then again, someone like Miss Selwyn, with her stature and grace, would be compatible with any outstanding man. She and Mr. Morison would look like a match made in heaven, should she stand beside him.

At that, Ethan snuck a glance at Bane and found that he was wearing his usual expression, seemingly unconcerned. But the more Bane appeared unaffected, the more fearful Ethan became.

If this isn't the calm before the storm, then I don't know what is! And this low pressure...

"Shall we do something, sir?"

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Bane smiled faintly but didn't respond.

Meanwhile, outside, Victoria's steps came to a halt after walking for a while, and she

turned to Alaric. "Thank you for your help today, Mr. Night. You can put Nathan down now. I can take a cab back by myself."

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Her address to him made Alaric pause for a moment, and he gazed at Victoria with a subtle smile. "Silent Night is just my username. My surname is Alaric Cadogan. You can call me Alaric."

Victoria was stumped, surprised that he would introduce himself in front of the children. How shameless.

Alas, before she could respond, Alaric continued, "My car is parked right here. I can give you guys a *ride* back."

"No thanks. I don't want to trouble you."

"Haven't I said I fell in love with you at first sight, Miss Selwyn? Something this minor is no trouble at all."

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Nicole, who had been listening in on their conversation, covered her little mouth with her hands and began giggling.

Victoria fell silent because, in reality, she was a little embarrassed and mad.

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She lowered her head to look at her daughter. She didn't say anything, nor did she show her anger. She just gazed quietly at Nicole.

Nicole was still giggling at first, but when she noticed Victoria staring at her like that, her smile instantly disappeared out of guilt. She put down her little hands and pursed her little mouth. She dared not laugh anymore, and she looked quite anxious.

Victoria rarely got mad at her children because they were usually obedient and considerate. Even if they did something wrong, she would teach them first, and only then would she get stricter if they refused to listen.

Because of her different and personal way of teaching, she usually didn't have to suddenly shift her expressions.

So, even if she simply looked at the children without a sound, the children would know that they had done something wrong.

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2/8

This time was no exception. Nicole didn't dare say a word, and she could only lower her

head as she stole glances at Victoria time and again.

When Victoria saw Nicole behaving like that, her heart softened again. She reached out and pinched Nicole's chubby cheeks in exasperation. "You shouldn't laugh next time."

"Okay. I'll be a good kid and listen to you, Mommy."

Nicole hugged Victoria's arm tightly, burying herself into her mother's embrace. She began to ignore Alaric's presence.

Victoria didn't feel too good for the past few days because Nicole kept going against her wishes. Now that Nicole was finally listening to her and ignoring Alaric, she felt a lot better.

Hence, she turned and said to Nathan, "Nathan, come down."

Nathan hesitated for a moment, then said to Alaric, "Mr. Night, put me down, please."

Alaric pursed his thin lips. He held Nathan tighter, then lowered his eyes to look at the child.

"As a man, and at such late hours, do you think I'd leave you there on your own? I would look irresponsible, and it's not safe for you three to wait for a ride here."

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3/8

Victoria smiled and said, "You're overthinking it, Mr. Night. Jasea is a safe city, and they have people in plain clothes on patrol on the streets at all times. It won't be dangerous."

"What if it is?" Alaric looked up at her. "You have two children to care for. Can you 100 percent sure that you'll be safe?"

be

Alaric's eyes flashed with a stern glow under the streetlights. "I came here with you, so I should ensure your safety."

In other words, he was responsible for the children too.

When Victoria heard that, she sneered in her heart. "What do you propose we do, then?"

"I'll send you home."

Victoria looked him in the eyes for a long time. In the end, she didn't say more as she carried Nicole, walking up to the car. "Open the door."

When Alaric saw that, his thin lips curved into a nice smile. He walked over and put Nathan down, then opened the car door for Victoria.

Victoria just wanted him to unlock the door, but she never expected him to come over and open the car door for her.

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4/8

She couldn't help but glare at him. Judging by his behavior right now, he seemed to be quite humble in front of her, especially in front of the children, too. Was it because he felt like he owed them?

When Victoria thought of something, she sneered in her heart.

Alaric wanted to pursue her in front of the children, but what if she took the initiative?

She wouldn't have to be led along then.

After thinking things through, Victoria quickly decided in her heart. He wanted to pursue her, huh? Then, she would torture him with all she had so that he would be deterred.

After getting into the car, the children flanked her as they held her arms on each side, their soft bodies leaning against her.

When they had settled in, Victoria saw Alaric turning to look at them, so she smiled.

“Thanks for being the driver, Mr. Night.”

Her response made Alaric pause for a moment. He gave her a weird look, then smiled.

“No problem. It’s my pleasure.”

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When he turned back to face the front, the smile instantly disappeared from Victoria’s lips as she returned to her usual cold look.

As she lowered her head, she accidentally met Nathan’s gaze.

Victoria hesitated, for she didn’t expect Nathan to see that. She put on a smile again, but Nathan didn’t seem surprised. He pursed his little mouth and hugged her arm tighter, not saying anything.

5/8

If possible, she didn’t want her children to see her negative sides, but Nathan was just too sensitive...

In the end, Victoria could only reach out and pat Nathan’s head.

The car pulled up at the ground floor of their community.

“Thank you, Mr. Night, for sending us home.” As soon as they arrived, Nicole immediately thanked Alaric.

Alaric met her gaze through the rearview mirror, and a smile graced his lips. “When I become Daddy in the future, you won’t have to thank me. It’s my responsibility.”

Victoria, however, remained seated emotionlessly. The children looked at her, then at Alaric in front.

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In the end, Nicole raised her head and asked, “Mommy, are we not getting out?”

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Victoria looked at Nicole, blinking lightly as she said, “Darling, did you forget? Mr. Night is pursuing Mommy, so if he doesn’t open the door, how can we get out?”

Alaric was speechless in the front seat. He suddenly understood why she smiled at him earlier. She must have changed her mind from that moment onward.

While he was thinking, the two children’s gazes were already upon him.

Under their gaze, Alaric undid his seatbelt, then got out and opened the car door for them.

When the car door was open, Victoria got out with the children.

The two children were in front while Victoria walked behind them. When she passed by Alaric, he secretly held her wrist, then said in a voice so small that only the two could hear, “Do you think you can deter me like this? In your dreams, Victoria.”

With that, before Victoria could react, he placed his hand on her back and gently pushed her forward. “Go on up. Goodnight.”

Victoria didn’t have a chance to reply before Alaric pushed her, causing her to take a

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few steps forward. The two children proceeded to take her hands.

“Goodbye, Mr. Night.”

7/8

Even though Nicole didn’t dare to officially take Alaric’s side anymore, the children were still courteous enough. Alaric had sent them home, after all, so they automatically thanked him and bade him goodbye.

Alaric stood where he was, a nice smile hanging on his thin lips. “See you tomorrow. I’ll

come and pick you guys up in the morning.”

The only response he received was the figures of Victoria and the two children walking away.

Alaric stood there for a long time. When he saw the lights turn on behind a certain window upstairs, confirming that the three had already arrived home safely, he finally left reassured.

After Victoria went into the house with the two children, she turned on the lights and subconsciously walked toward the window. Then, she quickly drew the curtains closed. After that, she peeked through the gap to see that the black car had already driven off. It was only then that she let out a sigh of relief.

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She thought that he would stay downstairs for a bit, but now, he was finally decent enough to leave straight away.

“Mommy, what are you looking at?”

8/8

Nicole’s voice sounded from behind her. Victoria turned to see Nicole standing behind her, looking up at her with a curious gaze. “Mommy, are you feeling lonely because Mr. Night is leaving?”

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When Victoria heard that, she was instantly stunned.

How could Nicole have thoughts about loneliness and similar feelings?

Victoria frowned slightly, but she quickly smoothed out the frown as she bent down and beckoned at Nicole.

Nicole walked over to her and entered her embrace.

“Mommy.”

“Who taught you those words just now?” Victoria asked in a small voice.

When Nicole heard that, she said in a quiet voice, “No one taught me, Mommy. I thought of it myself. You peeked through the window as soon as you came back, so weren’t you looking at Mr. Night, Mommy?”

Victoria said, “No, I was just drawing the curtains.”

“But I saw you peeking through the gap in the curtains.”

Victoria fell silent.

1/9

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Is she really my daughter? Why does she keep speaking on someone else's behalf?

2/9

At that thought, Victoria couldn't help but reach out and pinch Nicole's cheeks, scolding lightly, "Nicole, why do you keep talking back to Mommy these days?"

Nicole's cheeks were soft and tender, so when Victoria pinched them, they instantly turned pink. Nicole blinked and said innocently, "But Mommy, I'm telling the truth."

Forget it. She's just five years old. Even if I try to explain, she probably can't understand .

Victoria could only give up, but she had to teach Nicole properly too.

"Nicole, can you promise me one thing?"

"What is it, Mommy?"

"Next time, when Mr. Night is around, just follow everything Mommy says. You can't against me, okay?"

When Nicole heard that, she didn't agree right away. Instead, she said with a curious expression, "Mommy, do you not like Mr. Night?"

She finally asked that question.

go

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Victoria nodded immediately.

3/9

"I don't like him."

"Then do you hate Mr. Night, Mommy?"

What answer was she supposed to give?

If she said yes, what lesson would her daughter learn from this?

After thinking for a moment, Victoria said in a light voice, “Nicole, are you happy playing with Zack recently? Do you like him?”

When Nicole heard that, she nodded.

“Yes.”

“Then what about the boy sitting in front of you? Do you like him too?”

Nicole thought earnestly for a moment, then shook her head. “I don’t like him, Mommy.”

“Oh, you don’t like him? Then do you hate him?”

Nicole seemed *to* understand what Victoria was trying to say, and she looked at

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Victoria, half–bewildered.

“So, even if you don’t like someone, it doesn’t mean you hate them, right?”

“I understand now, Mommy.”

4/9

Victoria finally felt a little assured when she heard that. However, the good feeling didn’t last for more than a few seconds, because Nicole continued, “Then you should play with Mr. Night, Mommy. He’s honestly a good person.”

Victoria was speechless.

Never mind.

Victoria could only say in a quiet voice, “Nicole, go back to your room for now. I’ll call you for dinner later.”

“Mommy, does this mean you agree to play with Mr. Night?”

“I’ll consider it later.”

“Okay.”

Nicole could do nothing but leave.

Chapter 315 Foresight

5/9

When Nicole was gone, Victoria stood where she was. The smile and gentleness on her face disappeared, and a troubled look took over.

Was it because of their blood relation?

Why was Nicole so dependent on Alaric? Not just Nicole, but when they were at Bane’s place at night, Victoria saw Nathan’s expression and behavior when Alaric carried him.

Nathan didn’t seem to resist Alaric either.

The two children seemed to be able to accept him without realizing it.

Also, about what happened today...

Victoria kept feeling that something was off when she thought back on the events. today.

Bane wasn’t a careless man. How could he suddenly pick up the children but forget to inform her?

Even if he forgot, Ethan wouldn’t.

But it was just one occurrence. She couldn’t assume something bad about Bane simply from this incident.

Chapter 315 Foresight

Victoria flung herself onto the couch, sinking into the cushion as she closed her eyes and rested.

The next morning.

To avoid Alaric, Victoria purposefully took the children out half an hour ahead. She

would take them out for breakfast today.

When Alaric came later, he would have missed his mark.

She planned everything, but she had just gotten downstairs when she saw a Stretch Lincoln parked on the ground floor. Terrance was leaning against the car, yawning. He looked like he would fall asleep at any moment.

6/9

Victoria only looked at him for a few seconds, but Terrance had already yawned twice in fatigue.

Just as he was about to yawn a third time, he suddenly noticed Victoria coming downstairs with the two children. He gave up yawning, and he didn't look tired anymore as he perked up and walked toward her, calling out to her loudly, "Good morning, Miss Selwyn."

Victoria was speechless.

She had some unpleasant words to say to him.

Terrance blocked her way with just a few steps, saying excitedly, "Miss Selwyn, I didn't think that you'd come down so early. On the way here, I even told Mr. Cadogan that it's not necessary to come here so early to wait for you, but Mr. Cadogan said that you'd come down earlier. What foresight!"

As he spoke, the car door opened, and Alaric got out of the car in his formal outfit.

"Mr. Night!"

Nicole immediately greeted Alaric, and she even ran up to him.

Victoria was speechless.

Nicole seemed to have forgotten everything she told her last night.

Alaric bent down and quickly picked Nicole up. He was wearing formal attire today,

which consisted of a suit and a tie, complete with a long gray coat on top. He looked extra neat and dignified.

Nicole, who was wearing a milky white coat, looked like a soft rice dumpling in his arms. They shared similar vibes, and when they were next to each other, they looked even more alike.

Victoria closed her eyes. She truly didn't want to witness this scene.

"Miss Selwyn. Miss Nicole, Mr. Nathan, and you came down so early, so you must not have eaten breakfast yet, correct?"

Victoria pursed her lips in silence.

8/9

When Terrance saw her ignoring him, he put on a sheepish look and stopped speaking. Alaric walked up to Victoria, carrying Nicole in his arms. He lowered his head to glance at Nathan, who was beside Victoria and had subconsciously leaned backward. Then, his gaze went back to Victoria's face.

"Come on, I'll take you all to breakfast."

Victoria stood where she was, unmoving. She simply looked coldly at Alaric.

Alaric raised an eyebrow when he saw that, then reached out toward Nathan.

"Let's go, Nathan."

Chapter 315 Foresight

Nathan looked at the strong hands extended to him. He pursed his lips, but he didn't reach out.

Even though the hands were completely different from Victoria's.

9/9

Victoria's hands were soft, small, and pale. However, Alaric's hands were huge, and they

looked very safe.

But Victoria didn't like Alaric. Nathan lowered his gaze to avoid looking at Alaric.

Alaric could tell what Nathan was thinking, but he didn't force the boy. He carried Nicole into the car first. Nicole, now in the car, waved repeatedly at Victoria and Nathan.

"Mommy, Nathan, hurry and get in!"

Victoria took in a deep breath. She felt someone tugging a corner of her clothes, and her gaze met Nathan's. She smiled lightly and said in a soft voice, "Go ahead."