

Departure with a Belly Chapter 201

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Chapter 201

The rain grew heavier, and the corridor was almost flooded.

Victoria tugged at the scarf around her, surprised that the weather in Corynthea was this cold. She fell into a daze after standing still, recalling the 'Mr. Cadogan' she heard earlier...

As usual, she didn't feel anything when she heard the surname. That said, she knew the 'Mr. Cadogan' from tonight was different from the person she had encountered at her job earlier.

This was Corynthea; she was in Jasea. Only one person with this last name could casually afford 85 million and be invited here.

It's been five years since we last met... She took a deep breath and walked in another direction.

"Miss Selwyn,"

She had only taken a few steps when a tall, dashing figure blocked her path.

Victoria looked toward the man, slightly stumped.

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He was dressed in a blue suit with a meticulously tied tie. When he saw her look up, he smiled and introduced himself, saying, "Hello, I'm Jordan Floyd."

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Jordan Floyd? The heir of the Floyd Family that Ethan and I were talking about?

At the sight of her being lost in thought, Jordan quirked a brow. "Do you not recognize me, Miss Selwyn? I've sent you several job invitations. Isn't it a little hurtful that you don't know who I am?"

"Not really." Victoria returned the handshake. "I was just wondering why you'd be here."

She'd be lying if she said she recognized the new heir of Floyd Corporation, for she was too busy to check. However, that didn't stop her from faking it.

If she were to open a company in Jasea, she'd have to establish good relationships with these enterprises.

Her hand was soft and lovely, and Jordan was stumped for a moment when he held it before eventually coming around, for she had withdrawn her hand as soon as their palms made contact.

In the meantime, Jordan sized her up for a few seconds before asking, "Why are you

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out here, Miss Selwyn?"

“To catch some fresh air.”

“I see.” Jordan quirked a brow. “By the way, Miss Selwyn, may I ask why you’ve repeatedly rejected my job invitations? After all, the conditions I offered were much better than what you received in your previous job.”

Victoria thought for a moment and decided not to mention her plan of starting a company for the time being. At that, she replied, “I’m sorry, my rejection is due to personal reasons. It has nothing to do with your offer.”

He wasn’t an unreasonable hooligan either, so he didn’t press on when she said it was personal. “Well, I can only hope that your private matters can be resolved soon so that I can invite you to join Floyd Corporation.”

She was taken aback by that, and she was just about to speak up when Jordan removed his suit jacket and draped it around her. “I suggest that you dress warmer next time, Miss Selwyn, lest you catch a cold.”

While the young woman was still processing the situation, Jordan bid her adieu, walking away with his assistant. “I have something else to attend to. See you.”

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Victoria parted her lips, wanting to call him back when Jordan returned with his assistant. “By the way, Miss Selwyn, I forgot to ask for your contact information earlier.”

After that, Jordan left beaming, satisfied. Meanwhile, his assistant followed behind him cautiously and asked, "Mr. Floyd, do you not feel cold when you've given your jacket to Miss Selwyn?"

"The cold never bothered me anyway." Jordan quirked a brow with delight. "The most important thing now is to win her favor."

His assistant gazed silently at him in response.

"What's with that look? Weren't you the one who suggested that I win her over with my looks?"

The assistant scratched his head. How has it become my fault now? Besides, I was only joking!

Victoria only came to her senses after Jordan left, and she quickly removed his jacket. She tried to catch up to him, but the man was nowhere to be found.

At that, she could only turn back around and hand the jacket to a staff member at

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the venue entrance. "Hi, could you please help me return this jacket to Mr. Floyd later?"

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The staff member had been eavesdropping on their conversation earlier. There were rumors about Jordan being flirtatious and having various romantic encounters, but

they didn't expect him to be so forward as to give his jacket to a beautiful woman he just met at the venue.

As staff members, they dared not take the jacket from her. After all, it was given to her by Jordan, which was a signal of his interest in her.

"I'm sorry, miss, but I suggest you return it to Mr. Floyd personally since he was the one who gave it to you."

"I don't know where he's gone off to, though!" Victoria argued, to which the staff member countered, "Haven't you exchanged contact information with Mr. Floyd?" Victoria fell silent at that. Let me guess—you've been standing here watching the drama unfold, haven't you?

Seeing that she remained rooted on the spot, the staff member aside explained, "It's not that we don't want to help you, miss, but we're only staff members of the venue.

We barely have any chance of meeting Mr. Floyd, so it's improbable that we can

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return the jacket on your behalf even if you hand it to us."

Victoria thought they had a point, so she gave up insisting. "Alright, thank you."

After taking a glance at the hall and the lobby, she asked, "Can I take a break outside?"

"Of course." The staff members immediately offered their assistance. "Allow me to escort you."

To head from here to the other side, an umbrella was needed. The staff member held an umbrella and escorted her, and after they arrived, Victoria thanked them with a smile. "Thank you for accompanying me."

Victoria was beautiful with fair skin. Her waist-length hair was naturally black, giving her a pure and charming look when it cascaded down on both sides of her shoulders.

Moreover, anyone standing close to her could smell a faint and pleasant fragrance from Victoria. It was indiscernible which perfume it was, but it felt pleasant.

The staff member blushed instantly when the beauty thanked him. "No, you're too kind. I'll take my leave now."

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"Sure." Victoria surveyed the lobby after the staff member left and ultimately went toward a corner.

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After sitting down and texting Ethan, she received a text from Fiona, asking, 'Has the auction ended, love? Will you accompany me to the bar tonight?'

Victoria had intended to decline, but thinking about how Fiona had stayed at home to watch her babies for her, she softened up. 'I'll go to you once it's over.'

Sometime later, people began dispersing from the venue, and Victoria noticed the

crowd moving toward her. However, because of the downpour outside, many people gathered in the lobby.

When Victoria got up to search for Ethan at the exit, a familiar figure inadvertently entered her line of sight.

The man was slender and wore a classic white dress shirt and black suit combo, complemented by a dignified and classy wristwatch. He moved through the crowd with a cold and aloof expression, his exposed emotions giving his handsome face a sharp and intense aura.

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By his side was a slender and beautiful figure in a pink floor-length dress. Although the hem of the dress was slightly disheveled by the rain, it still couldn't conceal her gentle and elegant temperament.

She nestled by his side, holding his hand gently.

In the chaotic crowd, the couple was a perfect match.

It had occurred to Victoria that they would eventually run into each other one day, but never had she expected for it to be like this.

It's been five years. They must've gotten together long ago. Their kid is also about Nicole and Nathan's age, right?

Just as she was lost in thought, Alaric seemed to have sensed something and looked in her direction.

Victoria's breath hitched, and she quickly turned around. He... He didn't see me just now, did he?

At this moment, Victoria stood still as if she were frozen, unable to move.

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“Miss Selwyn? Miss Selwyn!” Just then, Ethan’s voice rang out behind her.

Victoria’s fingers twitched, but she dared not turn around, so Ethan could only move to her front. “What’s wrong, Miss Selwyn?”

“Oh, it’s you, Ethan. Is it over?”

Ethan nodded in affirmation. “The handover is done.”

“Did you manage to win the bid?”

“Of course.” Ethan nodded with a tinge of pity. “We spent more than expected, though. The Cadogan Family-”

He had wanted to express how extravagantly the Cadogan Family spent and that he had to overspend to obtain that item. However, he stopped speaking at once when a thought hit him.

The two of them knew exactly why.

Moments later, Victoria finally said, “Since it’s all taken care of, let’s go.”

Ethan nodded in acknowledgment.

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Meanwhile, Victoria observed Ethan. Seeing his natural and relaxed demeanor, she believed Alaric was long gone, or the assistant would likely behave even more nervously than she would.

At that, she slowly turned around, and sure enough, the bustling crowd from earlier had dispersed by now, and the conspicuous couple in the crowd was nowhere to be

found.

Finally, Victoria eased up.

Upon learning that Victoria and Fiona were going out late at night, Ethan instantly became worried. "Miss Selwyn, isn't it a bad idea to go out at this time?" he asked worriedly.

However, Fiona refuted him at once. "Come on, Mr. Hudson. How is 10.00PM late? You're so young, yet you act like an old man."

"It's dangerous for you two girls to still be out so late, though."

"What sort of danger is out there? Don't worry. Jasea is very safe."

Victoria also felt helpless about Fiona's response. In the end, she could only say to

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Ethan, "I'll leave Nicole and Nathan in your care. I'll try to come back as soon as possible."

"Miss Selwyn..." Ethan furrowed his brows with concern, but before he could voice his worries again, Fiona had already dragged the young woman away.

After they left, Ethan thought for a moment and decided to report the news to Bane, taking out his phone.

"What do you think? Pretty sweet, right?"

Victoria looked around the bar. This bar was unlike any she had imagined. In fact, this one even had a very poetic name—Raindrop Lounge.

Plus, the music playing inside was not the kind of ear-blasting, rhythmic dance music she expected. Instead, soft and melodic piano tunes complemented the right

lighting, creating a great atmosphere in the bar.

“It is,” Victoria agreed.

“Right? Also, no one dares to cause trouble here. The owner has connections in both legal and illegal circles. No one would dare to make a scene on his turf. People come here to drink and make friends. If someone doesn’t want to befriend you, you

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must respect their choice.”

Victoria smiled upon hearing the news, and at the thought of something, she checked the time and asked Fiona, “Where’s your crush?”

Fiona’s expression instantly fell as soon as the topic was brought up. “Judging at the time, I’m not sure if he’ll still show up.”

Seeing her visibly deflated, Victoria smiled and patted her shoulder. “Come on, cheer

- 1. up. We were only trying our luck, no? If he doesn’t show up, I’ll hang around with you*

for a while. The atmosphere here is great, so I don’t mind spending an hour or two with you here.”

Fiona brightened up at once and immediately wrapped her arms around Victoria intimately. “You’re the best, Vic. We have to be best friends forever.”

Following that, the two hung around in the bar, and during that time, a few men approached Victoria with their drinks, hoping to have a drink with her and make friends. However, Victoria politely declined all of them.

The previous men who were rejected left gracefully, but the last one didn’t want to

leave after Victoria declined with a tactful excuse. Instead, he stood there and looked at her curiously. "I'm sorry, but may I ask why?" he asked.

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Victoria was stumped for a second, unable to catch up with his train of thought.

"The reason for rejecting me." The man chuckled. "After all, I think making a friend wouldn't be a loss."

"That's because I'm already married," she replied, seemingly realizing his idea.

A brief expression of surprise flashed in the man's eyes at that, and he shrugged regretfully moments later, saying, "Alright, I shall leave you to your drink, then."

After the man left, Fiona teased Victoria, saying, "You sure are a heartbreaker, rejecting young guys like that. You used to be more subtle, but now, you just crush their hopes directly."

Victoria shrugged in response. "Don't you think this is a better approach? It saves a lot of trouble."

"It also helps you avoid any romantic entanglements. Don't you want to get out of singlehood?"

"Why should I? I have my two babies. Why should I look for a man?"

Victoria's two adorable children came to Fiona's mind at once, and she couldn't help

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feeling envious. "Damn it, I wouldn't want a man either if I had such cute babies. Say, should I ask that hot guy for some sperm the next time I see him?"

Victoria choked on her hot drink, alarming Fiona at once. "Are you okay?" She hurriedly grabbed some paper napkins to wipe Victoria down, only to accidentally

spill the hot drink on Victoria's white coat, leaving obvious stains.

"It's not coming off. I'll fix it in the washroom," said Victoria, stopping her.

"I'll go with you."

"Don't worry about it. You're still waiting for your crush to arrive, no?"

Fiona hesitated for a few seconds before finally saying, "Thank you for your sacrifice, my sweet girl friend. I will make you my honored guest at my wedding!"

Victoria chuckled at that and left for the washroom.

There was no way around cleaning the coat other than washing it with water. She also felt fortunate that it was her coat that got stained. If it were her shirt, she'd probably have to freeze to death.

A long time had passed by the time she came back out, and because the coat was

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still wet, she held it in her hands as she returned to her seat, only to find Fiona missing when she arrived. Hence, she glanced around and spotted her in another corner in no time.

Sitting across from Fiona was a man who was drinking with his head down.

The man had slender and distinct joints as he held the glass. Above that were strong and powerful forearms, and there was an exquisite wristwatch on his wrist.

The design of the watch, though...

Victoria felt as though a string in her mind snapped the moment she saw the design.

That wristwatch...

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When Victoria caught sight of the wristwatch, the alarm in her mind rang at once,

and she almost bolted to leave. However, she was still a step too slow, for the man sitting across from Fiona glanced inadvertently in her direction.

Their gazes collided mid-air, and in that instant, it felt like two trains derailing and crashing, sparking countless fireworks, causing the world to shatter.

The man, who was holding a glass of wine, froze in his previously dignified and indifferent expression.

Fiona, on the other hand, was still oblivious to the turn of events. As she attempted to obtain his contact information, she appeared bashful. Since they were so close to each other, Fiona dared not even look into Alaric's eyes but only stole glances at him.

"Um... I've been talking to you for so long. Do you mind if we exchange numbers? Don't worry, though—even though I'm interested in you, I won't call you all the time or anything like that."

However, the man remained unresponsive when she had rambled for so long. At that, Fiona lifted her head to look at him. "Can you—"

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Alas, the man stood up before she could finish her words, moving so swiftly that Fiona couldn't react in time, and by the time she did, the man had rushed out of the bar.

At the same time, a slender figure disappeared around the corner too.

Fiona stood there, feeling a bit bewildered, having no idea what was going on. Why did he suddenly run out? Also, was that... Victoria?

Victoria fled, wishing she had wings to immediately escape from this place.

She never expected him to be the man Fiona had her eyes on. What kind of person has he become after five years? Doesn't he already have Claudia in his life? How dare he come to a bar and deceive an innocent young woman?

Victoria's mind was in utter chaos as she ran and thought.

She didn't even know why she was running. She hadn't done anything wrong, and they had divorced peacefully five years ago. What was there for her to run from?

However, as she heard the hurried footsteps approaching from behind, Victoria couldn't stop.

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The toilet cubicles were right ahead, and Victoria, in a state of panic, planned to hide inside. However, before she could take another step, someone grabbed her shoulder.

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Immediately after, she was pressed against the cold, hard wall. The strong scent of alcohol overwhelmed her senses as the man leaned in, gripping her hands tightly, his gaze locked onto her incredulously.

His actions startled Victoria, and she struggled with all her might to break free when she came around.

It would've been fine if she hadn't struggled. However, as she did, the eyes of the man turned grim, and he leaned in to kiss her as though having been triggered.

"What are you doing? Let me go, let go..." Victoria fought to resist.

Unfortunately, the difference in strength between a man and a woman was too vast.

Victoria could only watch helplessly as he held her wrists and closed the distance between them inch by inch.

The man got closer until Victoria could see the tiny pores on his face and even smelled the scent of cedarwood masked by the smell of alcohol. Victoria glared at him and threatened through gritted teeth, saying, "Alaric, if you dare kiss me, I will

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bite your mouth until it bleeds."

Unfortunately, the man seemed deaf to her words and stubbornly persisted in his actions.

Just when Victoria thought she couldn't escape, the man suddenly dropped onto her with a bang, lying motionless.

The corridor fell silent at once, starkly contrasting the previous commotion.

Victoria was still breathing heavily, her chest rising and falling. The man who had fallen onto her shoulder remained motionless.

After calming down, she gave the man a gentle shove. However, he remained unresponsive.

What is going on? He was just-

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“Snowball...” the man suddenly slurred by her ear just as she was about to shove him away the second time.

With his head resting on her shoulder, she heard him clearly. She stood frozen in place, lowering her head to get a closer look at the handsome and gaunt figure in front of her.

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He had just called her by her nickname, and now, he was exuding the scent of alcohol, clearly sloshed out of his mind.

In that moment of confusion, Victoria heard a distant voice. “Victoria?”

Fiona! Alerted, Victoria forcefully shoved Alaric away at once.

Thump!

Naturally, Alaric, who was completely intoxicated at this moment, fell backward.

Seeing that he was about to hit the ground, Victoria hurriedly grabbed his hand.

Alas, the man was too heavy for her, so she was pulled toward him instead.

Coincidentally, Fiona appeared, and when she saw Victoria falling onto Alaric, her eyes widened in disbelief. "Vic, you..."

Victoria didn't explain herself at once. Instead, she took a deep breath, calmly placed her hand on Alaric's chest for support in front of Fiona, then stood up.

Fiona, who was still reeling in bewilderment, pointed at Victoria and Alaric. "You two..."

After standing up, Victoria casually fixed her clothes, tidied her hair, then nodded.

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"You're here, Fiona."

Facing Fiona's puzzled and inquisitive gaze, Victoria, without any hesitation or breathlessness, said, "This drunkard appeared out of nowhere and tried to molest me and even tried to barge into the ladies' washroom."

Her statement shook Fiona to her core. "What? No, that can't be right!"

That said, she quickly remembered that this was her friend making the accusation, and she chose to believe Victoria. Still, the man on the ground...

At that, she explained at once. "Vic, listen to me. He's the guy I've been telling you

about. What you just mentioned might be a misunderstanding. He's had one too many and probably didn't know what he was doing."

Victoria initially thought that striking first would plant a negative impression in Fiona's mind, but to her surprise, her friend spoke up for Alaric instead.

In fact, Fiona had already squatted beside Alaric and attempted to help him up before she could even counter Fiona's statement.

It left Victoria feeling suffocated.

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"Fiona, a true gentleman remains a true gentleman even when drunk. It doesn't expose their true nature."

Fiona paused her actions in response. Then, she looked up at Victoria and argued, "But... I've been checking him out for over half a year and have never seen him lay a hand on a woman. It even stumped me earlier when he suddenly ran out. Although I'm not entirely sure what happened, Victoria, please trust me. He didn't do it intentionally, I promise."

Victoria fell silent at once, shocked that her friend was continuing to defend Alaric.

If Fiona knew that the man she was helping up already had someone else in his life, would she still act this way?

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The situation turned complicated instantly. Victoria wanted Fiona to know that Alaric already had a significant other so she could completely give up her feelings for him. However, she didn't want Fiona to know about her involvement with Alaric as well.

Suddenly, she found herself in a dilemma.

"I'm sorry for today, Victoria. Why don't you go back first?" Fiona's voice traveled to her ears while she was lost in thought.

"Aren't you coming with me?" Victoria asked after recovering from her stupefaction. At that, Fiona bit her lower lip and shook her head. "I don't feel easy leaving him alone when he's in this state."

"And you think I feel easy about leaving you with him?"

Fiona smiled in response and said softly, "I'll be fine, Victoria. Even if something does happen, it's on me."

Victoria was rendered speechless. Having known the woman for many years, she never realized until now that Fiona could be such a hopeless romantic.

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Moments later, Victoria said resolutely, "No way. I can't leave you alone here."

"Victoria, please believe me! He's not a bad guy, I promise. Whatever happened earlier was a misunderstanding. He won't do anything to me!"

"How long have you known him?" Though exasperated, Victoria felt that as a friend,

since she had come along with Fiona tonight, she should fulfill her duty to advise her.

“Come on, half a year is a pretty long time.”

Victoria sneered at that. “Is that so? Do you know his name, then? How old is he this year, his height, weight, profession, or even...” Victoria paused for a moment before continuing, “You don’t even know if he’s married!”

“He’s not!”

Fiona was guilty of not being able to answer any of the previous questions.

However, she refuted instinctively upon hearing the last question.

“Why are you so sure that he’s not? You couldn’t even answer any of the previous questions, yet you retorted the last one immediately. Is he not married, or do you think he’s not married?”

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Fiona wrinkled her nose at once and furrowed her brows. “Would he constantly get drunk in a bar if he’s married?”

How many people have you really met for you to make such a judgment?” Victoria decided not to argue further and went straight to the point. “Come with me.”

“Victoria Fiona exclaimed. ‘I really don’t understand what’s going on with you today! Among the three of us, you used to be the most softhearted and kind–hearted. But today, this person is lying unconscious on the ground, on a winter’s night at that, yet you’re telling me not to care about him. This doesn’t sound like you”

Victoria said nothing in response, leading Fiona to size her up. "Just what's up? Are you in a bad mood because you're having your period?"

Exasperation overcame Victoria at this point. Great, all that for nothing.

After a long while, she finally uttered, "This has nothing to do with my period."

However, Fiona had already decided not to communicate with her anymore. She helped Alaric up and said to Victoria, "Either way, I won't leave him behind today. You should go back first, Victoria."

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Victoria gazed silently at her for a long while before finally sighing as if conceding.

"Alright, what are you going to do with him?"

She glanced at Alaric, mixed emotions surging within her while musing, He's already with Claudia, and he looked so glamorous at the auction venue earlier. Why did he run off to a bar, then? What on earth is he doing?

Meanwhile, Fiona glanced around and commented, "In the past, his friend would always come and get him every time he got drunk. I'm not sure why, but they don't seem to be here today."

His friend?

"A woman?"

"As if. It's a guy!"

A guy and a friend? Could it be Norwood?

"Well, given his current state, he can't continue staying here." At that, Victoria pondered and said, "If you're really worried about him, you can leave him with the bartender and have him call his friend."

That was the best way to deal with strangers; it was also what Victoria intended to
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1. *do. However, Fiona had long had a crush on Alaric and didn't want to go with Victoria's plan.*

As such, she bit her lip and said decisively, "It might be too much trouble to find the bartender. Why don't I just get a cab and take him to a hotel?"

"And then?" Victoria didn't seem surprised by her response.

"And then... Oh, I'll figure it out as I go. Don't worry about me."

Victoria took a deep breath, suppressing her temper so that her voice didn't sound off. "Fine, I'll accompany you. We'll take him to a hotel and make sure he's okay, then we'll leave."

Fiona wanted to continue refuting, but when she saw that Victoria was possibly pissed, she worried the latter would really flip out if she continued. As such, she nodded reluctantly. "Alright, let's go."

Afterward, the two of them called a bartender over, and they lifted Alaric into a cab together, taking him to a nearby hotel. Alas, the hotel required a person's ID for check-in.

"Victoria, could you help me support him for a moment? I'll find my ID."

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Reluctantly, Victoria stepped forward to help support Alaric.

As soon as she took hold of him, all of Alaric's weight pressed onto her, and she took a couple of steps back to steady herself.

The scent of alcohol mixed with male hormones invaded her breath, and the familiar sensation from five years ago made her chest tighten.

Victoria bit her lower lip at that. If it weren't for Fiona's sake, she wanted to shove Alaric away.

After the hotel staff took the ID, they asked, "How many people will be staying?"

Fiona initially wanted to include herself, but considering Victoria was here too, she changed her words. "Just him."

"Alright, ma'am, we'll need this gentleman's ID."

"His ID?" Fiona blinked. "He's drunk, and I don't know where his ID is. Can't you use mine?"

"I'm sorry, ma'am. According to our hotel's policy, we need the ID of the person checking in."

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Fiona was instantly caught in a disma

Just then, Victoris, who was supporting Alans, spice up Frava, dopet bater

Fiona didn't know what had happened, but when it came to supporting her brush, she immediately obliged

Once she did, Victoria reached for Alaric's pants pocket, startling Fiona. What are

After taking a gander at her, Victoria pulled out Alaric's wallet, opened it proficiently, then handed his ID to the receptionist

Meanwhile, Fiona watched silently

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The two exerted a lot of energy when they sent Alaric to the hotel.

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After tossing the man onto the bed, Victoria was so exhausted that she kept gasping for air as she stood in place. Then, she turned around and glanced at Fiona.

Fiona instantly understood what she meant.

“Victoria, can I-”

“No.”

Victoria promptly cut the latter off. “Let’s go. It’s time to go back. He’ll be fine here.”

“He’s drunk, though. Will he be okay in the hotel alone? What if something happens to him?”

Victoria replied, “So? Don’t tell me you want to stay behind and take care of him.”

Fiona smiled awkwardly. “No. Why don’t we take his phone and call up his friends instead? How does that sound?”

“Do you know how to unlock his phone?”

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“No.”

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“Then how are you going to make the call?”

“You have a point.” Fiona twiddled her thumbs, feeling troubled. “It’s worrying to see him like this, though.”

”

“He’s an adult, not a child. Also, he’s just drunk. You’ve gotten drunk a lot in the past, haven’t you?”

That was true, but when she saw someone else in the same predicament, Fiona finally realized that she was seriously worried.

Now, she understood how her parents felt when she got drunk in the past. They were extremely worried that something would happen to her.

Despite her worries, Fiona was slightly more assured when she heard Victoria’s reminder.

After all, she ended up fine after getting drunk.

Alaric was a man, so what challenges could he possibly face that would be greater than hers?

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“Well... Alright, then.”

Fiona left with Victoria, still feeling troubled.

After they left the hotel, Fiona began to get curious.

“Say, how do you know that he puts his wallet in his pocket? You seem like you’re quite familiar with him. Also, how do you know where he puts his ID card?”

Fiona recalled the string of events. Back then, Victoria didn’t waste any effort as she took out the wallet from the man’s pocket. Most importantly, after she opened the wallet, she immediately found the man’s ID card in the second slot.

If Victoria hadn’t stayed abroad for five years, Fiona would have suspected that the two knew each other.

After all, it was normal to find a wallet in a pocket.

However, after finding the wallet, Victoria was able to swiftly avoid all sorts of bank cards and VIP cards as she took out the ID card straight away.

This was very suspicious.

When Victoria heard that, she paused and said, “If I told you it was just a wild guess,

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would you believe me?”

Fiona blinked, then maintained her focus on Victoria.

“I’d rather believe my suspicions that you’ve known each other for a long time, and you two even dated each other in the past.”

Victoria fell silent.

She wondered if she should tell Fiona that the latter had stumbled upon the truth.

However, before Victoria could speak up, Fiona came up with an excuse herself.

4/9

“Still, I’ve always known how capable you are, and you’re very good at observing people. Even though I don’t know how you managed to develop those skills, can you teach me your secrets in the future? Perhaps, with your tutelage, I could get my crush to fall for me.”

No matter what Fiona talked about, the topic would always go back to Alaric.

If this went on....

After getting into the car, Victoria received a message from Ethan.

Chapter 205 He Loves You So Much

“Miss Selwyn, when will you be coming back? We’re considered strangers in the land of Jasea, so you shouldn’t stay out too late. Please prioritize your safety.”

“Got it. I’m on my way back.”

After Victoria sent the message, Ethan didn’t send any more replies. He seemed to have stopped worrying.

As Victoria put her phone away, she thought of something and asked Fiona, “What did you stuff into his pocket just now?”

When Fiona heard that, she froze, then her gaze instantly became avoidant.

“What are you talking about? I have no idea what you’re getting at.”

Victoria didn't say anything, and she just stared at Fiona silently. Despite that, Fiona still felt very pressured.

5/9

"Alright, I left him a note. I can't unlock his phone since it requires a passcode, so I can't get his number, but I can still leave him a note with my number, right? After all, I helped him tonight, so won't he treat me as a savior when he wakes up tomorrow morning?"

Chapter 205 He Loves You So Much

A certain keyword instantly pierced Victoria's thought. Her expression shifted, then she looked away and fell silent.

After talking for some time, Fiona realized that Victoria wasn't responding, so she turned to look at the latter.

Fiona hadn't realized it, but Victoria was already looking out the window. Victoria's reflection could be seen in the window, and her face was void of expression as she gave off a desolate aura.

What's going on? Fiona thought.

Was it something I said?

Fiona was troubled in an instant. She twiddled her thumbs, wondering if she had accidentally said something that offended Victoria.

However, after thinking about it, she couldn't figure out anything wrong with her

words just now.

In the end, Fiona leaned closer to Victoria and asked in a small voice, "Victoria, did I say something that upset you?"

Chapter 205 He Loves You So Much

Fiona's voice shook Victoria out of her daze.

"Nothing."

E

When Victoria saw Fiona staring at her worriedly, she realized the woman had been in a daze just now.

"Really?" Fiona put on a doubtful expression. "Just now, you-"

"Yeah, I was thinking about something just now, so I was kind of in a daze."

"Are you really alright? Did I say something just now that upset you?"

Victoria reached out and pinched Fiona's cheek. "What can you say that might upset me? Don't overthink it. We'll be arriving soon."

Seeing that Victoria was still capable of teasing her, Fiona finally stopped worrying.

"I'm just glad that you're not mad at me."

Since it was a special community, cars weren't permitted entrance without registering.

7/9

Chapter 205 He Loves You So Much

In the end, Victoria and Fiona could only go in on foot.

When they almost arrived, Fiona suddenly pointed ahead of them, saying, "There's someone at our door."

Hearing that, Victoria looked in the direction Fiona was pointing to see a slender figure at the door.

Judging by the figure...

Before Victoria could think any further, the person turned around.

Their gazes met midway.

Victoria hadn't opened her mouth when Fiona screamed in excitement, "Oh, it's Bane! He's here for you!"

Victoria was speechless.

Victoria was about to greet Bane, but her words were forced back into her throat by Fiona's excited reaction.

"Goodness, Victoria, why would he be here all of a sudden? Could it be that he discovered you went to the bar with me and got worried, so he came here to see

8/9

hapter

you?"

E

Fiona was chattering away, and Victoria could only say in exasperation, "Can you be

quiet for a bit?”

“Alright.”

Victoria didn't have to walk over to Bane; he was walking over to her already.

He took off his coat as he approached them, and when he arrived in front of Victoria, he didn't say a word as he draped the coat over her shoulders.

“Wow!”

Fiona hid her grin behind her hand as she said, “He loves you so much.”

Victoria was speechless.

Chapter 206

2

7

The thick jacket was draped over Victoria in an instant, bringing some of Bane's warmth with it.

1/

Bane was much warmer than she was. As the warmth spread over her body, the cold breeze of the night didn't feel as cold anymore.

Victoria smiled at him. “Thank you.”

Bane gazed at her with a mix of exasperation and tender love. “It's so cold outside.

You should wear more clothes when you go out. You're prone to sickness, remember?”

Before Victoria could answer, Fiona stepped in from the side. "Oh, Bane, stop reprimanding Victoria. If she doesn't wear this outfit, you won't have a chance to show your love, will you?"

"Come on." Victoria interrupted their conversation. "It's cold outside, so let's go in and talk."

The three entered the house together. After going in, Victoria took off Bane's coat and returned it to him.

Hurry and put it on. Don't catch a cold."

He reached out and accepted the coat, but he didn't put it back on, merely holding it. Fiona looked at the two, her eyes darting back and forth before she said, 'I'll make my exit and leave the space for you two.'

With that Fiona walked in the direction of her room. Unexpectedly, she bumped into Ethan, who was walking out. When Ethan saw that Victoria had come home, he was about to greet her, but before he could make a sound, Fiona stepped forward and covered his mouth, dragging him away.

"Learn to read the room! Give your boss some alone time with the girl."

Bane was still holding the coat in his hand as he followed Victoria into the living room. Throughout the process, he kept observing her expressions.

At first, Victoria didn't notice it and even asked him what he would like to drink. He answered that he would have some plain water. After fetching the water, Victoria

came back to see that he had always been staring at her.

She placed the glass of water in front of her, then raised an eyebrow. "What's the matter? Did you find some treasure on my body, that you would keep staring at me since you came?"

E

Bane's thin lips slightly turned up at the corners. His gold-rimmed glasses glowed faintly as they reflected the lights in the living room, and his voice was very gentle.

"I haven't seen you in a while. I missed you, so I couldn't help but steal more glances at you." He was as straightforward as they came.

Victoria was a little stunned by that. After her initial shock, Victoria raised an eyebrow. "Fine, then you can look at me longer."

Then, she changed the topic and successfully deflected the conversation.

"Are you done with your work?"

Bane nodded. "Yes. I rushed here as soon as everything was done."

'Don't worry. With Mr. Hudson around, everything you want to do will be dealt with.'

When Bane heard that, he was silent for a few seconds before saying, "Do you think I'm worried about that?"

"What else?" Victoria replied hastily.

B

Chapter 206 Some Changes

When she finished talking, she finally realized that something was off about it.

When she looked up once again, she saw Bane looking at her smilingly.

“Victoria, what do

you

think?”

Victoria wasn't sure if it were just her, but she felt that Bane seemed to have changed a little compared to the period abroad.

She had always known about the fact that he liked her. He knew she would reject him, so he never once gave her any hints. However...

Victoria's silence caused Bane's gaze to darken. He pursed his thin lips as he sat there, waiting quietly for her answer.

Sadly, after the long wait, Victoria only said, “It must have been tiring to rush back by plane. Have you booked a hotel?”

With Ethan around, of course, the hotel room would be booked beforehand.

However, faced with Victoria's query at this moment, Bane suddenly wanted to find out how she would react if he said no.

With that in mind, Bane did exactly that.

4/9

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Chapter 206 Some Changes

“No.”

He denied.

When Victoria heard that, she instantly frowned. She subconsciously wanted to complain about Ethan’s capabilities, that he couldn’t even book a hotel for Bane.

However, before Victoria could voice those thoughts, she remembered that Ethan. was busy with the auction, and when he came home, he had to babysit her children. She quickly realized that she shouldn’t say those things. After all, she was partly accountable as well.

At that thought, Victoria immediately took out her phone. “I’ll book for you right now.

Where do you plan on staying?”

Despite the question, Bane stared at her, not moving.

“This place is quite nice.”

Victoria froze. She watched in shock as Bane smiled and said, “I’ll be staying here. for quite some time, anyway. I heard from Mr. Hudson that some houses are for rent here?”

5/9

Chapter 206 Some Changes

“Yes.”

“Great. Do you have a number I can call?”

“Fiona might have one, but it’s getting late now. Even if you want to rent a house, you have to wait at least until tomorrow, right? You also have to clean up the rented house and purchase furniture and all that.”

6/9

“Yes, you have a point. So, does Miss Selwyn have time tomorrow to accompany me to the supermarket for some shopping?”

Victoria couldn’t say no to those words, so she could only agree.

“All right.”

A few seconds later, Victoria spoke again. “Well, then, I’ll book a hotel for you, okay?”

“It’s okay.” Bane stood up. “You should let Mr. Hudson do it. Tell him to come out. It’s getting late, so we shouldn’t disturb you any longer.”

In the end, Bane admitted defeat. I mustn’t rush the matter of the heart.

Before Bane left, Victoria told him, “I’ll send the number to you after I get it from Fiona.”

Chapter 206 Some Changes

Bane nodded. “All right. Sorry for the trouble.”

“Please, you helped me so much. This isn’t a problem for me at all.”

7/9

After that, she stood at the entrance as she watched the two leave. When they were

gone, Fiona suddenly appeared behind Victoria.

“Mr. Hudson is amazing. Nicole and Nathan are fast asleep.”

When Victoria heard it, she paused before a faint grin crept on her face. “Yes, but it’s also their bedtime now.”

“I heard from Mr. Hudson that Nathan and Nicole wanted to go to sleep after you came back, but we came back too late, and they couldn’t hold it out any longer, so they fell asleep.”

When Fiona said that, there was a guilty look on her face.

“Sorry. If it weren’t for me, you wouldn’t have to come back so late, and the children wouldn’t have to wait so long for you.”

“Come on. It’s totally fine.”

After comforting Fiona, Victoria said, “I’ll check on them.”

Chapter 206 Some Changes

“All right.”

45%

Victoria went back to her room. The two children usually slept in another room, but perhaps they were playing in her room while waiting for her to come back, so they fell asleep there as well.

8/9

Nicole hugged her favorite pillow as she curled under the blanket, facing a corner of

the wall. Meanwhile, Nathan slept on the outer side of the bed, protecting her like an adult. He lay in a straight posture, protecting his sister as if he were worried that she would roll off the bed.

As soon as Victoria came in, Nathan woke up. He opened his eyes wide in the dark, then got up carefully.

“Mommy.”

“Shh.”

Victoria subconsciously gestured toward him. Then, she walked over and turned on the night light. She took a small blanket from the bed and draped it over Nathan’s shoulders, suppressing her volume as she asked, “Why did you get up? Weren’t you sleeping?”

12 43 Sat,

E

Chapter 206 Some Changes

Nathan wrapped the blanket around him as he leaned into Victoria’s embrace. He explained in a small voice, “I can’t sleep as long as Mommy’s not back yet.”

Chapter 207

The little guy’s words warmed Victoria’s heart. She reached out and caressed Nathan’s head, saying in a gentle voice, “Mommy is home now, so you can sleep without worries.”

Nathan leaned in her arms, blinking. “Can I sleep in your room tonight?”

Victoria looked at the enormous bed. She had already agreed in her heart, but she

couldn't help but want to tease her son.

"But Nathan, you're already 5 years old. You should sleep on your own."

When Nathan heard that, disappointment colored his tiny face, perhaps because he thought that Victoria would say yes. A moment later, he lowered his head and nodded obediently.

"Okay, Mommy. I'll sleep on my own."

She just wanted to tease him, but when she saw how disappointed he was, she felt like she was an evil person.

At that thought, Victoria said, "Come on, I was just joking. It's cold tonight, so let's all

1/8

Chapter 207 Want Us to Have Freedom

sleep together."

Nathan instantly put on a joyful look. "Mommy, do you mean it?"

"Yes, so get into bed first. I'll grab a blanket."

345%

2/8

He thought for a moment, but he didn't get into bed as he was told to. Instead, he stared earnestly at Victoria as he said, "If you're fetching a blanket, I'll get a pillow for you."

"Okay, let's go."

Victoria agreed.

Then, she went back to her room for her blanket as Nathan carried her pillow for her.

When the two were walking back, Victoria heard the sound of a door closing, but the sound seemed to come from the entrance of the house.

She was a little confused, but she didn't say anything. After taking Nathan back to the room, she said to him, "Nathan, go ahead. I'll check on Fiona to see if she's asleep or not."

Since Victoria would be accompanying them from now on, Nathan wasn't worried anymore. Hence, he nodded obediently.

"Okay, Mommy."

Victoria carried Nathan onto the bed, then placed him in the center spot. Then, after pulling the blankets over Nathan and Nicole, she put on her shoes and went out. She went to Fiona's room first. She knocked on the door for some time, but nothing stirred within.

"Fiona?"

Still, no one responded, so Victoria opened the door and walked in. Just as expected, the room was empty. Fiona wasn't there.

Victoria pursed her lips, then had no choice but to turn around and close the main door of the house.

It was only then that she realized Fiona's outdoor shoes were gone. Even the coat she placed on the couch when she returned had disappeared.

Victoria knew very well the reason Fiona ran out at this hour. After all, she had just come home from the hotel with Fiona.

3/8

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Chapter 207 Want Us to Have Freedom

She simply didn't expect Fiona to be so bold that Fiona would sneak out after coming home with her. She was a little mad but also a little exasperated. How can she do that?

4/6

Victoria could only dial Fiona's number. Fiona was probably feeling guilty because she didn't pick up the few calls from Victoria.

Victoria could only go for the second-best option as she sent Fiona a message. 'Do you want me to abandon the two children at home in the middle of the night just to look for you?'

This time, Fiona replied in no time. 'No, please don't come out, Nicole and Nathan. need someone to look after them. Don't worry about me. I'll be careful on my own. I'm an adult, Victoria, you don't have to worry about me.'

Perhaps fearing that Victoria would keep bothering her, Fiona sent another message before Victoria could reply. 'Honestly, Victoria, even though we're living together, I want us to have freedom in our own lives!'

After that, even though Fiona didn't state anything explicitly, Victoria understood what Fiona meant.

Victoria pursed her lips and put her phone away.

12:44 Sat, 24 Jun

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It was true that adults shouldn't interfere too much in others' business, but... since she knew that Alaric was dating Claudia, she was obliged to tell her friend about it. She originally wanted to tell Fiona the news after the latter woke up the next day.

However, she didn't expect Fiona to go out tonight. Fiona can't even wait one night. After thinking about it, Victoria sent Fiona a message. 'Fiona, I have something to talk to you about. Let's call, all right?'

However, after Victoria sent the message, she never received another reply from Fiona. Victoria tried to be patient as she waited another 2 minutes, but she still didn't get any reply. Out of options, she could only dial Fiona's number.

Sorry, the phone you are calling is turned off. Please try again later.

The cold machine-like voice sounded from the other end of the line, causing Victoria's heart to sink.

She suddenly stood up from the couch. Turned off?

Did something happen to Fiona, or did she turn off her phone on purpose to ignore Victoria?

Victoria couldn't decide. She knew people needed their own space, and there should.

5/8

12:45 Sat, 24 Jun

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be a certain distance between every individual. However, she couldn't just ignore everything and go to sleep.

When she remembered what Fiona said before turning off the phone, she felt that at that moment, if she did something, Fiona might be offended.

Even though she and Fiona hadn't been friends for very long, they had always been on good terms with each other. If possible, she sincerely didn't want to hurt her friend.

After some thinking, Victoria suppressed her urge and went back to her room, then

proceeded to lie down.

Nathan wasn't asleep; he was still waiting for her.

Seeing that Victoria was back, he immediately scooted to the side and patted the spot next to him with his little hand. "Mommy."

With complicated emotions, she took off her coat and lay down.

She had just laid her head on the pillow when the little guy immediately found his way into her embrace and hugged her. "Mommy, are you troubled?"

6/8

Chapter 207 Want Us to Have Freedom

When Victoria heard that, she returned to her senses and looked at Nathan in apology. She didn't think that Nathan would figure out her feelings so soon.

Nathan and Nicole were twins, so they were supposed to be the same age.

However, perhaps because of the few extra seconds Nathan had ahead of Nicole, he was especially caring and considerate.

. . .

He could immediately sense her tiniest changes in emotion.

Even though he was only 5 years old, he was even more considerate than most adults.

7/8

Victoria pushed her complicated emotions out of the way as she hugged him tightly.

"That's not true, Nathan. It's getting late, so let's get to sleep."

Nathan blinked, looking at her in half-confusion. He didn't say more as he obediently closed his eyes and went to sleep.

Soon, Nathan's breaths turned slow and regular.

“Nathan?” Victoria whispered his name a few times. After making sure that there was no response from Nathan, which meant that he was fast asleep, she finally got up slowly and took her phone to the living room to make a call.

H

Chapter 207 Want Us to Have Freedom

After about half an hour, Victoria got up and opened the door, letting Bane in.

“What happened?”

As soon as Bane came in, he saw Victoria in her loungewear, and his expression instantly shifted.

8/8

“I’m sorry for calling you over so late in the night, Bane, but I just arrived in Jasea, and I don’t know many people-”

Before she could finish speaking, Bane suddenly gripped her wrist.

Victoria was shocked.

“Your hands are ice-cold! Didn’t you realize how little you’re wearing?”

Chapter 209

As Victoria thought about it, she opened the door and ran outside without shoes.

Just as she was about to sprint to the living room, Bane walked in, and she flung herself into his embrace without any warning.

He was surprised and took a few steps back to keep his balance. “What’s the matter?” he asked while hugging her, preventing her from falling.

At this moment, she couldn’t think of anything else and asked, “Where is Fiona? Is she back yet?”

Hearing her words, Bane sighed and said, “Don’t worry. I’m here to tell you about

her.”

Only then did Victoria calm down. She took a few steps back and looked at him. He saw her barefoot and was wearing the same clothes as last night. However, he knew she would not leave before hearing about Fiona’s matter. Thus, he said, “She is safe. Nothing happened to her. My men had guarded the hotel and just came back.”

‘Guarding the hotel?’

1/7

Chapter 209 She Had Never Appeared in His Dreams

“Yes.”

“How did you guys guard it? Which part of the hotel is she at? Did she get in?” asked Victoria. After all, there was no way Fiona could get into the room since she didn’t have the room card.

Bane didn’t reply and stared at her, seemingly trying to see her reaction. After some time, he chuckled and asked, “How would you feel if I told you she got in?”

20

At that moment, Victoria stiffened. Then, her expression darkened. “Do you think it’s fun to test my limits?”

The smile on Bane’s lips vanished when he saw her grim expression. “That’s not what I meant.”

“You have been testing me ever since last night.”

Bane paused for a moment before staring at her. “Well, you might as well think it is. I’m testing you because I care about you. I want to see if you still had feelings for him and if I still had the chance to be with you.”

At that moment, Victoria didn't say anything. She was startled by how straightforward he was. "I..."

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"Alright, that's enough of it. Since you know Fiona is safe, go and wear a coat."

At his words, Victoria looked down and saw she only wore pajamas.

"It's freezing outside, so don't catch a cold."

In the meantime, at the hotel. The sun was already up, and Fiona was leaning against the wall tiredly. She had been here all night and heard nothing happening inside the room. Thus, she felt that Alaric should be fine. Is he already awake? Did he see the note that I left?

As she thought about it, she felt her legs numb from squatting too long. She tried to stand up but accidentally dropped her phone. Then, she quickly picked it up and checked for any damage. After seeing that it was fine, she breathed a sigh of relief. However, she soon had a grim expression.

Last night, she turned off her phone since she feared that Victoria would call her again. She wondered if Victoria had been worried about her for the whole night. Thinking about it, Fiona turned on her phone and saw countless missed calls from Victoria. In that split second, she felt guilty. After all, she wouldn't have abandoned her best friend if she hadn't loved the man deeply. However, she only had this one

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chance that she couldn't miss.

Once I am done with him, I will ask Victoria for forgiveness.

As Fiona thought about it, she kept her phone away and stretched her limbs before pressing the doorbell.

While pressing the doorbell, she wondered whether Alaric had awoken from his sleep or not. Thus, she could only try her luck.

4/7

She pressed the doorbell twice the first time, and there was no response: Then, she stood there patiently. After some time, just as Fiona had lost count of how many times she had pressed the doorbell, the door finally opened. Alaric stood by the door and emitted a cold aura. He was glaring at her coldly since he was disturbed in his sleep.

When Fiona met his gaze, she felt chills run down her spine. “H–Hello?”

Bang! In that split second, the door was shut, almost hitting Fiona by the nose.

When she returned to her senses, she pressed on the doorbell again.

After pressing it for the second time, Alaric opened the door again.

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Chapter 209 She **Had** Never Appeared in His Dreams

“Is that something you need?” Alaric’s cold expression suggested that she was not welcomed. He recognized that Fiona was the woman bugging him at the bar.

However, never would he imagine that she would chase after him to the hotel he stayed in.

Fiona nodded and tried to enter the room, fearing Alaric would shut the door on her again. However, Alaric blocked the door and looked at her coldly. It was evident that he had no intention of letting her go inside.

“I... Please let me in. I have something to tell you.”

“You can say it here. I’ll give you one minute to speak,” Alaric said coldly.

Fiona didn’t expect him to be so cold–hearted. On second thought, she felt he might

not know what happened last night since he had just woken up. That was why he was acting cold toward her. Thus, she immediately said, "You were drunk last night, and I am the one who brought you here."

At that moment, Alaric stiffened.

"I am also the one who paid for the room." She smiled awkwardly. "However, I'm not asking you to return my money. I just don't want to be misunderstood."

5/7

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Chapter 209 She Had Never Appeared in H

He fell silent when he heard that she was the one who helped him when he was drunk last night. However, something flashed across his mind, Among the chaos, he vaguely remembered seeing the woman he longed for at the bar. Yet, when he woke up, Fiona told him she was the one who helped him.

Thinking about it, Alaric narrowed his eyes.

Could I be delusional since I was drunk last night? No. That's not it. For the past five years, Victoria has always been on my mind whenever I close my eyes. However, she had never once come into my dreams. No matter how much I yearned for her, she had never appeared in my dreams, not even when I was drunk. Thus, it wasn't at dream when I saw her last night. She is actually at the bar!

As Alaric thought about it, his expression changed drastically, and he immediately walked into the room.

On the other hand, Fiona didn't know what happened. However, seeing that Alaric had not closed the door, she quickly followed him into the room. "How do I put this? Although I helped you yesterday, you don't have to thank me. If you want to repay.

me, though... How about we exchange our numbers?" As Fiona spoke, she took out her phone.

Alaric glanced at her coldly before giving a set of numbers. After Fiona had typed it.

Chapter 209 She Had Never Appeared in His Dreams

into her phone, he said, "This is my secretary's phone number. He will give you the money you need if you tell him about what happened last night."

As he spoke, he had already worn his suit and took his phone. Then, he turned around and left the room.

Chapter 210

Fiona had memorized the number, but when Alaric left after mentioning that it was his assistant's number, it made her anxious. Thus, she chased after him on impulse.

She followed Alaric to the elevator and called out to him, "Wait, the reason I'm asking for your contact information is not to ask for a reward. I just want to be friends with you. Can you please give me your contact information?"

Hearing that, Alaric took big steps forward before stopping at the elevator door and standing there expressionlessly.

Seeing that, Fiona bit her lower lip and looked at him nervously. "Please, please, I really want your contact information. I promise I won't be constantly bothering you."

He glanced at her coldly as he raised his hand to button up the top button of his suit. He replied coldly, "Miss, if you have any ulterior motives toward me, I suggest you put that thought away, or else I can't guarantee what might happen later."

Ding.

The elevator arrived just on time, and Alaric entered expressionlessly. Fiona's face turned pale, but after she watched him enter the elevator, she couldn't help but

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slowly follow him in.

E

Only the two of them were in the elevator, and Fiona could almost feel the chilling aura that Alaric emanated as soon as she entered. Though she liked him a lot, she had never been rejected by anyone so harshly before. His cold gaze and tone made her feel undesired, which instantly shattered her confidence. She almost didn't dare to speak to him again, so she numbly stood there as she waited for the elevator to descend. Every minute and second felt like an eternity.

Finally, the elevator reached the first floor, and Fiona followed behind him as they exited. When Alaric approached the elevator door, he paused his steps and said coldly, "I hope *you* won't follow me anymore."

Fiona, who was still numb from what happened earlier, bit her lip without looking up or responding. Suddenly, the phone in her hand started ringing, and Alaric started walking away.

She glanced at the caller ID and answered the call weakly, "Victoria..."

Victoria, who heard Fiona's voice, heaved a sigh of relief. "Fiona, you're finally answering my call."

"I'm sorry..." Fiona bit her lip. She had felt fine just a moment ago, but now, after

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Chapter 210 Doesnt Recognize Her Ex-Husband

hearing Victoria's voice, she felt wronged and had the urge to cry. "I didn't

intentionally turn off my phone last night. It's just that... I really like him." When Victoria, who was in the living room, heard Fiona's words of grievance and her quavering voice, it broke her heart.

"I know, I know, you've been wronged. Where are you now? I'll have Ethan pick you up, alright? There are some things I want to talk to you about after you come back."

"Okay, I'm currently at..." Fiona was about to say her location when she caught sight of those familiar shoes in front of her and raised her head in astonishment. She saw Alaric, who should have left, return. "You..."

"Fiona?" Alaric furrowed his brow while looking at her oddly.

His unexpected return gave Fiona a glimmer of hope, and she immediately said to Victoria on the phone, "I have something to do now. I'll call you later, okay?" With that, Fiona hung up the call. She did it so quickly that Alaric couldn't stop her.

Victoria was speechless when Fiona hung up the call. Why did she suddenly hang up again? And her tone seems to have become more cheerful. Could it be that Alaric is with her? The thought of this gave Victoria a bad feeling.

3/7

Chapter 210 Doesn't Recognize Her Ex Husband

of her eyes and looked at the man in front of her. "You..." She wanted to ask why he had come back, but she was so embarrassed that she hesitated to speak.

Just as she was struggling with how to start the conversation, the handsome man in front of her glanced at her phone and pursed his thin lips before asking, "Were you on the phone just now?"

This question caught Fiona off guard, and she slowly nodded. "Yes, I was."

"Your friend?"

“Yes.”

H

“You helped me last night, didn’t you?” Alaric squinted his eyes as he asked, and Fiona continued to nod.

A0

“Yes, you were drunk and passed out on the ground. I was afraid something would happen to you, so I thought of taking you to a hotel to rest. But...” At this point, Fiona seemed to recall something, and her words came to a halt.

“But what?”

Alaric’s keen sixth sense told him that whatever followed the ‘but’ was important information. Fiona was usually quick with her words, and she didn’t expect to reveal Chapter 210 Doesnt Recognize Her Ex Husband what had happened later. Firstly, she didn’t want to betray her friend, and secondly, she felt it wouldn’t be appropriate to say such things in front of Alaric. What if he got angry? She didn’t expect herself to blurt it out.

Fiona awkwardly smiled. “It’s... nothing.”

At this, Alaric’s gaze turned cold. “Tell me the truth.”

The way Alaric acted displayed his dominance. Fiona didn’t know what came over her because she had planned not to say it, but when she saw Alaric’s gaze, she suddenly felt a chill running down her spine. She couldn’t help but confess everything truthfully.

“Y–Yesterday... something happened. *You* were drunk, and you tried to make a move on my friend. At first, she misunderstood you, but don’t worry, I’ve explained to her that you’re not that kind of person. After that, she helped me bring you to the hotel.”

“Made a move on your friend?” Suddenly, specific images that Alaric had forgotten earlier flashed through his mind. He only remembered seeing her, the one who had haunted his dreams, at the bar, but he had no recollection of what happened afterward. Now with Fiona’s reminder, Alaric instantly remembered. He had pinned someone against the wall and wanted to... but then he suddenly lost consciousness. So, something like that had happened.

Chapter 210 Doesn’t Recognize Her Ex Husband

“No, no,” Fiona tried to defend him. “I know you were drunk, and you may have done something that made her misunderstand, but you’re not that kind of person. I’ve already explained it to her on your behalf.”

“Is that so?” Alaric said calmly.

“Yes,” Fiona nodded vigorously. “My friend didn’t know you before, so she misunderstood you, but she won’t anymore.”

As soon as he heard this, his expression froze momentarily before he chuckled.

“She didn’t know me?” That’s just great! How dare she claim that she doesn’t know me!

“Yeah, do you know my friend?” Fiona nodded innocently.

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Not only did he know her, but they had even slept together. The next second, Alaric raised his head and asked, “Can you take me to meet your friend?”

“Huh?” Fiona was startled at his request and wondered why he wanted to meet her friend out of the blue.

“Didn’t *you* say that I’ve made a move on your friend? Take me to meet her, and I’ll personally apologize to her face to face.” On top of that, he also wanted to ask her

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how she didn't recognize her ex-husband.

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Chapter 211 11 Definitely Say Something Good Abo

Chapter 211

The twists and turns of events always arrived unexpectedly.

Just moments ago, Fiona, convinced that her story would end in misery, was heartbroken. She had planned to return home and seek solace in tears with Victoria while mourning her first time being rejected.

To her surprise, the man came back.

As Fiona sat in the car, her emotions surged like a roller coaster.

She pursed her lips when she felt an overwhelming sweetness in her heart. Her courage also grew, and she attempted to strike up a conversation with him during the ride.

"Uh... Can I ask you a question?" she started.

Alaric stared ahead without a hint of emotion on his face. "Go ahead."

"Well, so... What's your name? Don't get me wrong. I simply don't know how to address *you*. After all, I don't even know your last name."

"Cadogan," he replied succinctly.

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Chapter 211 1| Definitely Say Something Good Abo

"Cadogan?" Fiona seemed surprised. "Your last name's Cadogan?"

Her reaction made Alaric think of a possibility, and the man soon raised an eyebrow

and asked, "Do you know me?"

"Nope," Fiona murmured. "I just thought that you have a beautiful last name."

Alaric was rather speechless. So, she has never mentioned a word about me even though they are best friends? he thought quietly. She is even pretending to not know me. Did she forget about me after five years? Ha!

After learning his last name, Fiona greedily desired to know his full name. She held back at first but in the end, she couldn't resist asking, "Mr. Cadogan, am I really not allowed to know your full name?"

Alaric maintained a serious expression and offered no reply.

Undeterred, Fiona asked, "What about your contact information?"

Alas, he paid her no heed.

Nevertheless, the woman wasn't discouraged. She sat in the same car with him after he was willing to apologize to her friend for a mere 'misunderstanding', which

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Chapter 211 11 Definitely Say Something Good Abo

was why she could tell that this was a man of admirable prospects.

He might be someone who could be a decent long-term partner.

Also, she didn't mind his indifference.

Fiona knew all too well that the seemingly aloof and indifferent facade, which appeared as icy as an iceberg to others, would melt into a fervent passion once someone had captured his heart.

She loved how special she would feel being someone's whole world.

However, she had never encountered a man like Alaric before.

Most men wouldn't be able to control their desires and would always treat women,

especially those who were beautiful, with extra care.

3/8

Not many men of her type existed, which was why her relationships were always short-lived. They would attract her at first sight, but as they spent time together, she would realize how extremely boring they were. It would last about a week before her relationships become dull.

It's not like she hadn't taken notice of Bane, who was by Alaric's side.

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Chapter 211 | Definitely Say Something Good Abo

Although Bane wasn't an icy mountain and seemed gentle and kind to everyone, Fiona could sense that he maintained a certain distance despite being polite to others.

Other than Victoria, it was difficult for anyone of the opposite sex to enter his safe distance.

Unfortunately, this was her best friend's man. She couldn't possibly make a move on him.

It wasn't easy for Fiona to bump into such an exquisite man like Alaric after coming back to Corynthea. She wasn't going to give up just like that.

The more she thought about it, the more enthusiastic she became. Once she successfully conquered Alaric, she probably wouldn't need to change boyfriends so frequently in the future.

Upon arriving at the destination, Alaric looked at the quaint residential area before him with squinted eyes. He finally spoke then.

"Do you and your friend live here?"

“Yup.” Fiona nodded. “It’s a pretty comfortable and quiet location. My friend just
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Chapter 211 13 Definitely Say Something Good Abo

returned from abroad, so I thought of finding her a place that might bring her luck to
live in. It will probably help her career too.”

“Her career?”

“Mhm. My friend wants to open her own business.”

Alaric raised an eyebrow subtly. He never would have thought that there would
come a day when he heard about Victoria’s affairs and past from someone else’s
mouth.

At the thought of this, he couldn’t help feeling somewhat insulted.

Despite that, he was still curious to know about her life.

“A business?” Alaric interlocked his fingers and placed them in front of his knees.

“Are you starting a business together?”

“No.” Fiona shook her head. “I work for my father at the airport. He doesn’t allow me.
to start a business. After I graduated, he asked me to help with the family business.
and learn management there.”

However, he showed no reaction as he sat there even after she said those words.

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She looked at his expression and pondered for a moment before she spoke again.

“My friend wants to start a company.”

As expected, Alaric’s eyebrows twitched again when Fiona mentioned Victoria.

“What company is it?”

Fiona grumbled, “I’m not entirely sure. I only have a vague idea, but I haven’t asked

about the specifics.”

She found it strange that this man seemed really interested in Victoria. Is it because of the mistake he made after getting drunk last night?

When she brought up the matter earlier, he had acted as if he had already forgotten about it. He made Fiona think that he wasn't interested in Victoria. So, the only possible reason left must be because he feels sorry. It's because he feels sorry for her that he pays more attention to her.

Fiona understood this kind of feeling to some extent. “You don't have to worry. My friend is a kind and gentle person. She's really easygoing. After you apologize to her and explain yourself, we can all have a meal together. Everything will be just fine.”

“Is that so?”

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Chapter 211 Definitely Say Something Good Abo

“Mhm! You don't have to worry. I'll definitely say something good about you on your behalf. My friend will surely come to accept you.”

Say something good about me, huh? After their conversation, Alaric finally turned to Fiona with a serious gaze.

“What's your name?”

The woman's eyes shone and she immediately replied, “My last name's Garza. I'm Fiona Garza.”

As if to confirm, Alaric asked again, “What about your friend?”

“What?”

“How should I address her when I see her later?”

“Oh, you're talking about her. Her name's Victoria. Victoria Selwyn.”

“Victoria Selwyn.” As Alaric uttered those three words, it felt like an entire light-year had passed.

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The once familiar name that used to roll off his tongue like water now felt unfamiliar, as if it had been a long time since that name was last said.

Chapter 211 i'll Definitely Say Something Good Abo

Fiona, who was beside him, was stunned when she heard those two words from him. She realized how his voice sounded particularly deep and pleasant when he said Victoria's name. Why isn't he calling my name, though?! Is it because my name's not as pretty as Victoria's?

Thus, Fiona began to regret not giving herself a nicer name.

With a gloomy mood, she and Alaric finally reached the entrance where Fiona led him inside.

“Victoria!”

As soon as they entered, Fiona began calling Victoria's name.

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Alaric followed behind her but when he stood at the entrance, his feet wouldn't take another step as he started looking around the room.

It was probably because the women had just moved in here that there was no trace of Victoria's presence in the house. It looked unfamiliar, but from now on, Victoria would be living here.

After taking off his shoes, the man slowly and impassively walked into the room.

Chapter 212 What Is He Afraid Of