

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 546

### Departure with a Belly Chapter 546

*Chapter 546 Don't You Know How to Sit and Wait for Me?*

*After Ethan departed, the surroundings became quiet. Everyone had left, and so had she.*

*Perhaps she would never come back again.*

*The surroundings seemed silent, and Bane could no longer hear any other sound. All that remained was the sound of his heartbeat.*

*The return journey went smoothly. They left at a time that avoided the city's peak hours, and the car smoothly entered the highway for the trip. Once on the highway, the wind outside the car became louder.*

*Victoria sat in her seat, listening to the wind howling and thinking about what Alaric had said before entering the highway. "Have you thought it through? If we enter the highway and regret it later, it won't be so easy to turn back."*

*She pursed her lips and did not respond to his words.*

*A silence fell between them, and the driver, who had not received any instructions, smoothly drove the car onto the highway.*

*Victoria finally realized something, seeing Alaric still seemed concerned about this matter. The reason why Bane was unwilling to see her might be right here.*

*"You don't need to worry about this matter, even if I haven't seen him." In the quiet car, she suddenly spoke up.*

*Hearing her voice, Alaric, who had remained silent, looked at her. She looked out the window, turned to face him, and continued, "If you care so much, he has succeeded."*

*He was speechless. This statement made him suddenly realize something. So, that's how it is.*

*He stared at Victoria briefly and said, "You're right." If I keep caring about this, then Ban e's intentions will succeed, right?*

*She had tried to persuade him several times, but it had been useless. After all, those were just words of comfort from her. However, this time was different. Her words hit the mark, directly addressing Alaric's concerns.*

*He also came to a sudden realization and smiled. "You're right. I've been needlessly troubling myself." As he finished speaking, he pulled her into his embrace.*

*"Okay. Let's never mention this matter again and return to living a good life." She nestled into his embrace and blinked lightly after hearing his words. In truth, she still had concerns about that particular matter.*

*Summer had been working with Audrey for the past few days. The newcomer seemed eager to stay in this position, so she had a strong desire to learn and was hardworking. Although she did not do everything Summer asked perfectly, she approached each task with great dedication.*

*For example, Audrey took on the task of organizing the documents given by Summer. Surprisingly, she took the time to memorize them all. However, her panda-like dark circles were even more evident after she finished memorizing them.*

*Summer was a bit concerned about her situation but could not do anything. "I'm glad you take your work*

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*seriously, but your health is more important. You need to rest well because you can only work better when you have enough rest."*

*Facing her concern, Audrey smiled shyly. "It's okay, I understand. I'm used to staying late, so I can handle it."*

*“What if there comes a day when you can’t handle it? If I’m not here, you’ll be on your own in this position.”*

*“No, it’s alright.”*

*Summer tried to persuade her several times, but it seemed like Audrey did not take it to heart. Summer was worried that she might become annoying if she continued, so she did not say anything else and simply instructed her to take care of herself without further inquiries.*

*It would be beneficial for Summer if Audrey learned quickly. The company had set a one – month transition period because there was a lot of work and a learning phase. However, the transition period could be shortened if the person taking over was familiar with the work and could quickly handle it.*

*Just like Audrey, based on her relentless learning pace, Summer estimated that she could complete all the handover work in about two weeks. At that point, she could leave early, but she did not want that. She still hoped that Audrey could take over the job healthily so that there would not be any issues if she fell ill later when she was no longer there.*

*The most important thing was that health was the foundation of everything. Summer not only grew but also matured in her thinking over the years. The older she got, the more she realized that good health was paramount while everything else was secondary. Resigning this time was partially due to her health. She felt a bit overwhelmed and could not work as hard as before.*

*After finishing a report, Summer had planned to have Audrey deliver it to Erik’s office. However, when she looked up, she did not see her. “Audrey? Where are you?” She called out twice but received no response.*

*Summer felt helpless. She had no choice but to get up and prepare to deliver the report herself. When she knocked on the office door, a cold voice quickly said, “Come in.” Only then she pushed the door open and*

walked in.

*Erik was standing by the French window and talking on the phone inside. Upon seeing her enter, he merely glanced at her before refocusing on his conversation.*

*Observing the situation, Summer placed the report directly on his desk. She intended to leave after placing the document since she did not need to give a report. Just as she arrived at the door, she heard a voice from behind saying, "Wait."*

*His voice made her pause, and she turned back with a hint of confusion.*

*Erik gestured toward his seat, indicating for her to come over. Since he was still on the phone, Summer did not feel appropriate to speak and instead followed the direction of his finger. She thought he had something for her to handle, so she stood next to his office chair, intending to wait until he finished his call.*

*After another two minutes of conversation on the phone, he turned his head and noticed the young lady standing awkwardly by his chair. He fell silent, then approached her silently and pointed to his seat.*

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*Summer immediately looked at him with a puzzled expression.*

*Erik was speechless. He sighed silently in his mind and said, "Sit down and wait here." After speaking, he resumed his phone call, leaving her standing there in confusion.*

*What did I just hear? Did Mr. Ludson ask me to sit in his seat? Her gaze shifted downward and landed on the office chair. The chair that only he had ever sat on. And this position...*

*Summer instinctively shook her head. She dared not do that! She pursed her lips and took a few steps to the side instead.*

*d of sitting down to wait, distancing herself. As she had to wait there with nothing to do, she picked up the report she had just placed and continued reading it.*

*After an unknown amount of time, Erik finally returned. "Don't you know how to sit and wait for me?"*

#### *Chapter 547 Tolerant*

*As Erik approached her, Summer was taken aback by his sudden presence. A peculiar sensation surged within her, prompting her to instinctively take two steps back, maintaining some distance from him. He pursed his lips slightly in response to her actions. "What brings you here?"*

*"I came to deliver a report since Audrey wasn't available," she replied.*

*At that, he noticed she still held the report and reached out to take it from her. As he took the document and lowered his head to examine it, she assumed there was nothing else for her to do. She stated, "If you don't require anything further, I'll take my leave." After speaking, she intended to walk away.*

*"Do I have man-eating monsters in my office?" Erik asked, his voice unexpectedly cold.*

*This question puzzled Summer. "What do you mean, Mr. Ludson?"*

*"Oh?" He raised an eyebrow. "You seemed eager to leave, as if floods and fierce beasts were present here."*

*She remained silent. So, that's what he means.*

*"It seems that ever since I approved your resignation letter, you've been avoiding me. Tell me, did I mistreat you in the past?"*

*The word 'mistreat' sounded severe when spoken by him, and it deeply affected her. Her expression changed slightly, and she instinctively explained, "How could that be? You've always treated me well, without any*

*mistreatment."*

*Although she had previously complained about him due to work-related matters and perceived him as a devil for making her work overtime like a workaholic, she was merely an employee, and it seemed as if all the work*

*was solely her responsibility.*

*"Is that so?" Erik narrowed his eyes slightly, silently scrutinizing her. "Then, why did you call me the devil?"*

*She hesitated for a moment, and a forced smile appeared on her lips. "Mr. Ludson, why do you still remember that... I misspoke at that time, and it wasn't intentional. Furthermore..." She mustered her courage and sincerely explained, "To be honest, I've learned a lot from working with you over the years."*

*Although it had been challenging, her progress had been remarkable. Erik's high expectations and strict demands had propelled her rapid growth in such an environment. Even if she left the Ludson Corporation now and joined another company, she would be capable of handling tasks independently.*

*"Is that so?" He sat down in his chair and continued to gaze at her.*

*Whether it was Summer's imagination or not, she felt that Erik's gaze toward her had become increasingly*

*peculiar since she had submitted her resignation letter. She pursed her lips and nodded, unable to contain her*

*excitement. "Yes."*

*The atmosphere suddenly grew cold, and she did not know what else to say. She wanted to leave, but it*

*seemed that Erik still had something to discuss with her. Thus, she remained standing and waited.*

*After waiting a while without him speaking up, she decided not to say anything and contemplated leaving directly. However, just as she was about to depart, he spoke again, "How is your replacement colleague doing?"*

*At his words, she halted in her tracks. "She's doing quite well. She learns quickly and is hardworking and resilient. With her assistance, the handover for you should proceed without any issues."*

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*Erik nodded. "Hmm."*

*"I believe if she maintains this progress, I can complete the handover with her in less than a month."*

*At that remark, he paused briefly, his gaze slowly falling upon her face. "Oh? Less than a month?" he inquired.*

*"Yes, I believe two weeks should suffice," she replied.*

*“So, in two weeks, you’ll be able to leave?” He clarified.*

*When Summer brought up the topic, her delight was evident. “If she can handle it, then I should be able to leave earlier, within two weeks.” As she spoke, joy and excitement radiated from her face. Even her eyebrows raised, reflecting her genuinely good mood.*

*Moreover, during this time, she seemed to be wearing makeup every day. Not only that, her clothes were no longer the usual commuting outfits she used to wear. She began wearing different clothes and even wore some bracelets on her wrist.*

*These changes prompted Erik to reflect. Had he been too demanding in the past, leaving her with no time to shop for new clothes, apply makeup, or even think about fashion? Lost in thought, he pursed his lips.*

*“Mr. Ludson?” Summer waved her hand in front of Erik. “If there’s nothing else, may I leave? I have some work to attend to.”*

*He let out a sigh of relief. “Go ahead.” After she left, he made a phone call to his assistant, requesting his presence.*

*When the assistant arrived, Erik got straight to the point. “Did any of you take your annual leave this year?”*

*At that, the assistant shook his head. “No, Mr. Ludson. We did not find the time for annual leave. Projects and deadlines kept us occupied throughout.”*

*Erik raised an eyebrow. Almost unable to believe it, he glanced at the time on the computer. The year was drawing to a close, yet they had not taken their annual leave. “What about Summer? Did she take hers?”*

*As the question was asked, the assistant’s gaze turned somewhat peculiar. “Mr. Ludson, did you forget? When we wanted to take our annual leave earlier, we had a major project at that time. You asked us to forgo our annual leave this year, promising us a bonus at year-end...” The assistant’s expression shifted slightly. “Or perhaps... Did you forget about the bonus as well?”*

*Erik remained silent. At that reminder, he finally realized the truth in their words. It seemed he had indeed been*

*too occupied.*

*“Mr. Ludson, don’t you think it’s time for you to take a break too?”*

*Erik inquired, “Did you take your annual leave last year?”*

*The assistant replied, “No.”*

*As expected, it came as no surprise to Erik.*

*“What about Summer?”*

*The assistant’s despair became evident. “Her? Let’s not even mention it. Since she joined our company until*

*now, she has never taken any annual leave.”*

*Suddenly, Erik understood why Summer wished to resign and why she had been so elated upon learning about his potential early departure from the company. Throughout all those years, she has never taken a single day*

*off?*

*“Speaking of this, I must say Summer has shown remarkable resilience. Despite her typically soft and endearing demeanor, she proved to be capable of handling significant responsibilities. She approached projects diligently It’s difficult to let go of her current position.” The assistant admitted as he scratched his head. “But everyone has their aspirations. If she chooses not to continue, there’s nothing we can do but wish her the best for the future,” the assistant concluded.*

*After delivering his remarks, the assistant looked up at Erik, anticipating a response. However, he found his boss sitting there, deep in thought as if he was contemplating something significant.*

*Chapter 548 A Partner*

*What’s going on?*

*As the assistant looked at Erik in this state, he subconsciously wondered if his boss was reflecting on himself after hearing that they had not taken any annual leave.*

*After a while, Erik snapped out of it and hesitantly asked, “Do you think her resignation has anything to do with*

*that reason?”*



*At that, the assistant was momentarily stunned before finally reacting. "I don't think it has, honestly." He scratched his head. "If she wanted to resign because of the annual leave, she wouldn't have waited until now."*

*Erik remained silent. Although his assistant did not think it was an issue, he had a vague feeling that it had to be related. After all, she had not taken any annual leave for so many years, and it was normal for her to feel disappointed with the company's policies and consider leaving.*

*He needed to ask her when he had the chance.*

*"Mr. Ludson, if you don't want her to resign, why did you sign it?"*

*Erik replied, "If I didn't, would I not be confining her to the company?"*

*The assistant scratched his head. "True."*

*After the assistant left, Erik took out his phone and opened WhatsApp, where he found his conversation with Summer. Their chat box was updated daily but always revolved around work, even until her resignation.*

*He rarely scrolled up absentmindedly, but as he read through it for a while, he finally understood why Summer thought he was a workaholic and the devil. He was someone who worked relentlessly, not only demanding from others but also being strict with himself. When he became stern, he would work day and night, neglecting his well-being. That was why he often did not pay attention to the feelings of those around him.*

*Now, looking at it calmly, it was no wonder she called him the devil. From all aspects, except for the salary, he*

*seemed no different from one.*

*With this realization, he pursed his lips with displeasure.*

*Summer had no idea about Erik's thoughts. She returned to her workstation to finish the remaining tasks, and*

*her phone rang. Seeing the incoming call, she quickly regained her energy and smiled as she answered the phone. "Hello, Mom.",*

*Under normal circumstances, she would not call her parents during work hours because she was too busy. She was afraid of both affecting her work and worrying her parents. So, whenever she received their calls at work, she would not talk for too long.*

*This time was different, though. With the recent handover process with Audrey, she had taken on fewer tasks and finally had some time. Hearing her daughter's clear and cheerful voice, Summer's mother, Jane Howmon, could sense her mood through her tone.*

*“Summer? What’s the matter? Do you have good news?”*

*Summer had not told her family about her resignation yet. She had been afraid that Erik would disagree or that*

*the approval process would take time. She did not want to worry her parents by telling them but did not*

*expect him to sign it so quickly.*

*Weirdly, she felt no urge to tell her mother anymore. She decided to persevere and give her parents a surprise when she returned home. Won’t that be better? With that, she suppressed all the thoughts in her heart and*

*said, “No, Mom.”*

*“No? Why do you sound so happy, then?”*

*“Oh, Mom, I’m always optimistic and happy. It’s not the first time we’ve talked on the phone.”*

*After thinking for a moment, Jane realized that her daughter had always been optimistic and cheerful during their phone calls over the years, never showing any emotions. Still, as her mother, how could she not understand her daughter?*

*Her daughter had always been exceptionally sensible since she was little, perhaps because of her father’s unfortunate circumstances. She was always considerate toward her mother, speaking and acting gently. Even when feeling down, she would force herself to cheer up and smile when talking to her mother, afraid of worrying her.*

*Thinking of her daughter’s thoughts, Jane did not want to expose her, fearing it would worry her more. So, she smiled and said, “Yes, yes. My daughter is like a little sun, always brightening up the people around her.”*

*This comment made Summer satisfied, and she smiled with her eyes. “That’s right.”*

*“But my little sun, while brightening up others, don’t forget to shine on yourself. It’s been so long since you’ve come back. Don’t just focus on making money.”*

*Hearing this, Summer knew what her mother was going to say next and preemptively replied, “I know, Mom. You can rest assured that I won’t just focus on making money. I will take good care of my health.”*

*After hearing her long response, Jane felt somewhat helpless. “Summer, that’s not what I meant.”*

*She was momentarily puzzled and asked, "Huh? What do you mean, Mom?"*

*"You've been working outside for so many years, and there's been no progress?"*

*"What progress?" After asking, Summer suddenly realized.*

*"What progress? What do you mean by progress?"*

*Other girls find partners on their own when they go out to work. How come you don't even have a trace of one? What's the matter with you, Summer? After all, I've seen other girls find partners themselves. How come you don't have anyone?" her mother asked with concern.*

*She remained silent.*

*Bringing up this topic made Summer resentful again, and her frustration was directed toward Erik. Since he had helped her and Victoria, she had temporarily forgotten the reasons to blame him. The fact that she called him the devil was not only because he was a workaholic and had strict demands on his subordinates. The more important reason was that she had no time to date due to her busy work schedule.*

*Thanks to that, she did come across many eligible men. However, she could not arrange a date with any of them. Why not? Was it because she looked down on them and did not want to go out? No, it was because she simply did not have the time.*

*Thinking about this, she felt melancholic and could only say hastily, "Oh, Mom, my work keeps me very busy, and you know that. Besides, finding a partner is not something that can be rushed. It also depends on fate."*

*arrived?"*

*Summer remained silent.*

*"Do you have nothing to say? You have to take the lead to have a story."*

*"Okay, Mom, I got it. I've been keeping an eye out recently, and I promise I'll bring back a partner who will make you very happy. Alright, Mom. I have other things to attend to, so I'll hang up now. I'll call you when I have time." After saying that, Summer hurriedly hung up the phone. She let out a long sigh of relief afterward.*

*There was no way around it. She could have a conversation about other things with her mother, but when it*

*came to finding a partner, she felt that it simply could not progress. After all, it was not that she did not want to*

*find someone. She was also a girl who longed for someone to sweep her off her feet.*

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 549

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*Chapter 549 Back to School*

*There was a sound behind her, and Summer realized Audrey had returned. Just as she was about to speak, she heard Audrey say, "Summer, were you talking to your mom just now?"*

*When Summer heard this, she was taken aback and just nodded.*

*"I overheard your conversation. Your mom is also urging you to find a partner, right?"*

*She did not expect Audrey to have heard her phone call as Audrey had just returned. So, Summer awkwardly tugged at her lip and replied, "Well, it'd be weird if our parents didn't, especially after graduation."*

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*Audrey nodded in agreement. "Yeah, I went through the same thing. I was constantly being pressured by my family when I was at home. And I get the same type of phone calls now and then too." After speaking, she shrugged helplessly and then remembered something. "Summer, you've been with the company for ages, right?*

*If you go back home, are you planning to stay there?"*

*She had no reason to hide her plans, so she told her, "Yeah, I'll go home for now. We'll see about the future*

*later."*

*“Ah. You’ll be set up on blind dates once you do.”*

*Summer was speechless.*

*“As long as you stay home, you definitely won’t be able to escape it.”*

*Summer imagined the scene and nodded in agreement. “You’re right. I guess I can’t.”*

*“But you wouldn’t go on blind dates, would you?”*

*Summer sighed. “Why not? I don’t reject them.” She had never rejected the idea of dating or men in general. After all, she did not have a partner until now, so going on blind dates would provide another opportunity.*

*Of course, this was just her thinking.*

*However, Audrey was shocked, which was reflected in her wide eyes. “Really? Are you willing to go on blind dates? Summer, I always thought that young people nowadays resist them.”*

*“Why do you say that?”*

*“Blind dates imply that if both parties find each other acceptable after the meeting, they will start discussing marriage. It’s aimed directly at getting married, and the considerations and conditions are completely different. You probably haven’t developed feelings for each other yet, but the*

*wedding date is set already. There’s also a possibility that you will realize your personalities clash, but you’re already close to getting married. In short,*

*there are all sorts of situations,” Audrey spoke while Summer listened quietly.*

*After hearing everything, Summer could not help but smile. “You make valid points, but I will follow my path.” Whether it was dating freely or going on blind dates, she would surely look for someone she liked. So, blind dates were just a way for her to broaden her horizon.*

*Audrey did not expect Summer would remain fond of the idea, even after mentioning all the drawbacks. Hence, she did not say anything more. "Well, then. I hope you find someone you like soon."*

*"Thank you, you too."*

*"Oh, Summer, are you planning to go back early? It's almost New Year's Day. After we finish the handover, it'll*

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*probably be the new year."*

*Summer checked the time and realized that it was indeed approaching that time. It seemed like she would have a good year this year.*

*She chatted with Audrey for a little longer and discovered their hometowns were the same place. Audrey was delighted and invited her to go home together for New Year, to which Summer happily agreed.*

*Later, Summer sent a message to Victoria, informing her that she would be coming back and seeing her as soon as she landed. Victoria did not reply immediately, but Summer was in no hurry. After all, they were in different time zones, so she would wait for Victoria to be free and reply.*

*The return journey went smoothly, and when Victoria and Alaric arrived home, it was already nighttime. Although they had only been away for a few days, she missed her two sweeties so much that she wanted to find Nicole and Nathan as soon as she got out of the car.*

*However, she received news that said Nicole and Nathan were already asleep. They were afraid of waking the two little ones, so Victoria had to suppress the thought of going to see them.*

*“If you had arrived half an hour earlier, they wouldn’t have fallen asleep yet,” said Mary.*

*Victoria helplessly replied, “There’s nothing I can do. The journey back was already smooth.”*

*“You both look tired after a day of traveling. Go freshen up and rest. The two little ones will be thrilled to know you’re back tomorrow.”*

*“Alright.”*

*Afterward, Victoria went upstairs to freshen up first, and when Alaric was about to follow, Mary stopped him directly. “What did you two do this time?”*

*Alaric glanced at his mother and said, “Curious, aren’t you?”*

*She nodded. “If I weren’t, why would I ask?”*

*“Why don’t you just ask Victoria directly?”*

*“What are you talking about? You’re my son. Of course, it’s more convenient for me to ask you. Besides, she’s been on the road all day and needs rest.”*

*“Oh, so she needs rest, but I don’t?”*

*“Why would a grown man like you need so much rest?”*

*He was dumbfounded and speechless about his mother’s favoritism but did not say anything. In his heart, he was happy because his family all adored Victoria.*

*“Alright, your son needs rest too. I’ll head up.” After saying that, he went upstairs directly without paying attention to Mary’s reactions.*

*She was extremely speechless seeing his escape. They said the son became less reliant on his mother when they grew up. It turned out to be true. However...*

*Oh well, she had more than one son now anyway; she had two grandchildren! Fortunately, her daughter-in-law was capable as she conceived twins.*

*She had only expected to hold one grandchild, but then the couple had a divorce dispute, and her son acted like he could not find anyone suitable. It made her think that she might never have a grandchild in her lifetime. She should have given birth to one more child if she had known earlier.*

*So, for Mary, these two grandchildren were a pleasant surprise. The more she thought about it, the happier she became. She lifted the hem of her skirt and went upstairs to find her two babies.*

*After Victoria returned, the children went back to school. Their previous leave of absence was quite long, so when they arrived at the school, and the principal saw Alaric and Victoria personally bringing them, he was almost overwhelmed by emotion.*

*Having Alaric's children attend their school was a great honor for them. After all, the Cadogan Group was not an ordinary corporation. He even bragged about this with his friends since Alaric's children were attending*

*school there.*

*However, halfway through their studies, the two children suddenly took a leave of absence and did not return for a long time. People were speculating whether these two would return to continue their education, considering they had other better school options.*

*However, Alaric personally brought his children back to school just when the principal thought his bragging might be too much. Moved by his emotions, he could not help but shed tears of joy and personally went to greet them.*

*Chapter 550 He Was Taking Advantage of Her*

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*Although Victoria had lost her memory, she still felt quite familiar with the place as she had previously studied here. When she accompanied the two children inside, she stood at the entrance and some images flashed through her mind.*

*The speed was so fast that she couldn't catch those images, and they disappeared again.*

*She paused for a moment, and the person next to her also stopped.*



*“What’s wrong?” Alaric reached out and held her waist. Almost all of his attention was focused on her.*

*Victoria shook her head. “It’s nothing.”*

*Although she said so, he still looked at her with some concern.*

*“Let’s go. I’ll go in and take a look too.”*

*However, the next second, she pushed away his hand and walked inside.*

*It seemed that her memory would be affected when she went to certain places. Although she felt quite happy with her current life and it didn’t really matter whether her memory would be restored or not, she felt that there were some things she needed to know the truth about after she saw that post on Facebook.*

*Even if she might not be happy after knowing it, it was still better than not knowing anything at all.*

*Alaric followed her as he watched her back with a pensive expression.*

*After Victoria entered, her gaze remained fixed on the two children. As they moved around, some familiar yet unfamiliar scenes gradually appeared before her eyes.*

*However, the speed was too fast, and she couldn’t capture much. In the end, she gained nothing.*

*She sighed helplessly. Forget it. I’ll have to take it slowly.*

*Today was only the first day, and she was already able to capture some scenes. That was already quite impressive. If she continued coming every day, she would recover a little more each day. Maybe it would take some time, but eventually, her memory would fully return.*

*On the way back, Victoria proposed to Alaric that she would come to pick up and drop off the children at school every day.*

*After hearing her words, Alaric didn’t react too strongly and simply said faintly, “You’re taking over Mom’s job.”*

*At this, she was taken aback. “Doesn’t Mom have other things to do?”*

*His lips curled up. “Although she didn’t say it, her daily wish is to spend time with her grandchildren ever since we got married.”*

*Victoria was speechless.*

*It was evident that*

*Mary really liked Nicole and Nathan. Not only Mary but also Casey couldn't get enough of the children. When Victoria and Alaric took the children out in the morning, Victoria could see the reluctance in Mary's eyes.*

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*However, due to identity issues, Mary didn't dare to say anything and merely asked them to be careful on their*

*way.*

*When they were about to leave, she still had a hesitant expression as if wanting to say something, but she didn't say a word in the end.*

*Victoria didn't realize it in the morning, but now that Alaric brought it up, she finally caught his drift.*

*"Moreover, are you giving up on your company?"*

*Suddenly, his next words shocked her.*

*She looked at him with surprise. "My company?"*

*"Yes." Alaric raised his lips. "You put in a lot of effort to start your own company."*

*This was something that Victoria hadn't expected. I have a company of my own? She pursed her lips and subconsciously asked, "Where is it?"*

*"Do you want to go take a look?" Alaric replied.*

*Victoria asked, "What do you think?"*

*After all, it was her own company. How could she not want to go and see it?*

*"Let's go. We'll go and take a look."*

*The next moment, he instructed the driver to change the direction of the car, and it quickly turned around.*

*She became curious. "You said I have my own company. During this time, I've been busy with my own things.*

*Who is managing the company now?"*

*Who was managing it?*

*Fortunately, she had hired a capable assistant, who managed the company efficiently in her absence.*

*Later, Terrance found someone to help, and Henry's salary was increased. It could be said that Henry was now working under Alaric's supervision. Alaric paid his salary, but he worked for Victoria.*

*Alaric had looked at Henry's resume and found that he had an impressive background. This man could have had a promising career elsewhere, but he chose to work in a small company.*

*It was probably because he wanted to be a big fish in a small pond.*

*When Terrance talked to Henry about the job, Henry was candid.*

*"My wife, my children, and even my parents are in this city. Some companies may be grand, but they are not suitable for me. I believe that different things hold different weights in people's lives. Some may think that their career is more important, but for me, my family is the most important. So, I just want to find the best job in the right place. Besides that, I don't have any other demands."*

*Therefore, Alaric gave Henry the best treatment here, which was a win-win situation for him.*

*Thanks to the investment from the Cadogan Group, Henry had a positive outlook on the company. Even if Victoria was often absent from the office, he never thought about leaving.*

*Not to mention, Alaric increased his salary.*

*The salary Alaric gave him was higher than what he could have earned in a big company. So now, Henry treated the company as his own.*

*After all, he had achieved what he wanted, plus the high salary. What more could he ask for?*

*When Victoria learned that it was the manager whom she had hired before who was taking care of the*

*company, she was quite shocked. "I haven't been to the company for a long time. Doesn't he think the company is not doing well?"*

*Alaric smiled meaningfully. "Perhaps he sees you as a promising talent."*

*"Me?"*

*“Yes. After all, he was a high-level executive from a big company and has his unique perspective.”*

*Victoria was speechless.*

*She felt that he was praising her too much. She felt a bit embarrassed as she turned her face away and did not say anything more.*

*After the car arrived at the company, she followed him into the elevator.*

*Alaric led Victoria throughout the journey and when they entered the crowded elevator, she instinctively hid in his embrace.*

*After seeing this, he naturally pulled her into his arms and used his tall figure to shield her from the touch of*

*others.*

*She leaned against his chest while catching a whiff of his masculine scent. Then, her hand unconsciously grabbed his clothes.*

*When she raised her head, she met his dark and profound eyes.*

*“Are you okay?” he asked.*

*Victoria shook her head. “I’m fine.”*

*Alaric smirked. He was pleased with her dependent actions. With one hand braced against the elevator wall, he extended his other hand and grabbed Victoria’s wrist while guiding her to place her hand inside his coat and pulling her closer to his slim waist. He then leaned down to whisper in her ear, “Hold on tight so you won’t lose your balance later when there are more people.”*

*Victoria was speechless as she felt that he was taking advantage of her.*