

Departure with a Belly Chapter 241

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Chapter 241

An hour later, the doctor gave Victoria a health report. "He has severe gastritis, which is primarily why he fainted. He's also malnourished and severely depressed."

She took the report from the doctor, unable to comprehend how conditions like malnourishment and severe depression would appear on Alaric because he had always been omnipotent to her. Also, he seemed to have never gotten sick or suffered health issues.

After glancing toward the ward, she asked the doctor, "What's the next step for him? Is he going to be hospitalized?"

"According to the patient's condition, I recommend he get hospitalized for better recuperation. Otherwise, his condition might worsen if he continues like this."

"How did he get such severe gastritis?"

"For conditions like this, it might be due to the patient having irregular meals and alcoholism. Those are harmful to the stomach. Does your boyfriend drink a lot?"

The term 'boyfriend' made Victoria frown, but she thought there was no need to explain their relationship to a doctor, so she nodded. "Yes. He tends to drink a lot."

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Although she had never seen him drink, she remembered Fiona mentioning bumping into Alaric at the bar. In addition, Fiona thought he was there to train his alcohol tolerance, which was why he developed gastritis. Even her effort to master having a high tolerance to alcohol had caused her to get gastritis, let alone him.

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“Then, you must pay more attention to that and make sure he stops drinking.”

“Okay. I’ll tell him that.”

“Get him administered into the hospital and pay the fees.”

“Alright.”

After that, Victoria went to help Alaric get administered into a ward. During the process, she realized she had forgotten to bring her purse, and the amount she had inside her e-wallet was barely enough to pay for the hospitalization fees.

“Please wait a moment.” She had no choice but to look inside her bag to find Alaric’s personal belongings she had taken after he fainted. She pondered for a moment before taking out a familiar card.

“Try this one.”

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When she went to the hotel, she noticed his wallet and cards were placed in the same manner as he did in the past, so she deduced that if he maintained that habit,

perhaps his passcode stayed the same as well.

“Miss, please enter the passcode.”

She leaned over and entered the passcode.

Beep-

The amount needed was instantly deducted from Alaric’s account.

That beep of approval shocked Victoria. Still the same passcode from five ago? Isn’t he afraid I would steal all his money?

years

Once she finished packing up the things, she headed for his ward, which consisted of three patients. His bed was the innermost one, with a young child in the middle and an elderly man on the outermost bed.

When Victoria entered the room, the elderly man’s wife was peeling an orange while the child’s mother was coaxing him to eat. The atmosphere inside the room was lively. Perhaps Victoria was too eye-catching because everyone quieted down in unison after she entered the room.

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She smiled at them before heading toward the innermost bed and sitting in the

chair with the health report and inpatient papers. Afterward, she gazed at the still-unconscious Alaric with a complicated gaze.

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It seemed like he had fallen into a deep coma because he had not woken up since they arrived at the hospital. His complexion was ashen, and even his thin lips had become chapped. It was the first time she saw him in such a weakened state.

The question spinning in her head was how he brought himself into such a condition. Then, she understood why Alaric was so unwilling to talk with her back at the hotel. He might have been at his limit back then.

As Victoria thought of that, she sighed and took out her phone to call Henry. When he received her call, he asked carefully, "Miss Selwyn, why haven't you returned to the company? Did... you guys get into an argument?"

"No, we didn't get into an argument. I'm at the hospital-"

"What?!" he screamed in shock. "Why are you at the hospital? Though you and Mr. Cadogan have a past together, making such a big deal of it is unnecessary, right?"

Are you alright?"

Once he finished his rants, she helplessly spoke up, "Can you hear me out?"

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**Sure. Sure. Please speak, Miss Selwyn."*

Henry felt his heart almost jump out of his throat after hearing that Victoria was in the hospital because he was afraid they would lose the investment if something happened. Nothing would be worse than not having any investors.

"We didn't get into a fight. Alaric fainted, so I brought him to the hospital."

"Mr. Cadogan fainted? Why? Miss Selwyn, you-"

"What's with that tone? Are you suspecting me of doing something to him?"

He chuckled in response and said nothing.

"Has Alaric's assistant left the company?"

"Yes. He left half an hour ago."

It has been quite some time, so he must've left. "That's all, then. I'll think of another way to find him."

After hanging up, Victoria remembered something and searched through her bag.

Then, she pulled out Alaric's phone. She stopped when she was about to key in the old password, which was her birthday; she was the one who forced him to set it that

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way. Though five years had passed, she could understand if he did not feel like changing passcodes to his credit cards, but the meaning behind a phone's lock screen passcode was different. He had to have changed it, right?

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Thinking of that, she put away the phone but could not help taking it out again after giving it a thought. She played with the phone and looked at her reflection on the phone's screen. I don't care. I'm just curious. That's it. Curiosity does kill a cat. I just wanna know whether Alaric changed the passcode from my birthdate! That's all. Just like that, Victoria slowly persuaded herself while looking at the phone. Once she was done, she took a deep breath and slowly began entering the numbers of her birthdate. She did not have to think about it thanks to her muscle memory. The first few numbers were keyed in without much hassle, but her fingers instinctively stopped moving when it came to the last number. She pursed her lips and glanced at the unconscious man. A few moments later, she withdrew her gaze and tapped on the last number.

The phone's screen shifted and displayed the home screen.

She held the phone, frozen in her spot, while her heart began racing. How could this

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be? It's been five years. How can his passcode still be my birthday?

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When Terrance arrived at the hospital, he saw Victoria waiting for him outside the ward from far away. Seeing her reminded him of the scene where their fingers lingered earlier that day, and when he saw her gorgeous face again, he was shy.

Therefore, she noticed his blushing ears and cheeks when he approached her, but she did not overthink it and just thought they were red because of the cold weather. She approached him and gave him Alaric's phone, wallet, and key card to the ward. "These all belong to Mr. Cadogan."

Not knowing what happened, he could only accept those items one by one, and by the time her hands were empty, he suddenly realized what was going on. "Are you leaving, Miss Selwyn?"

Victoria nodded. "Yes. Since you're here, I have no point staying."

"Huh?" Terrance instantly regretted how he rushed over so quickly. If Alaric woke up and learned that she had left because he arrived, his boss would surely banish him out of there.

At the thought of that, he tried to persuade her to stay. "Miss Selwyn, can't you stay a while longer? I've just arrived, so I don't know much about Mr. Cadogan's

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condition. Why don't you explain what's going on in more detail? Or, how about waiting for Mr. Cadogan to wake up before you leave?"

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However, Victoria had come up with a solution to this. "Mr. Cadogan fainted because of his gastritis. I've already administered him as an inpatient, so you only need to find him a caretaker. He's currently taking fluids, and there are two more bottles left, so you need to head to the nurse's station or ring the bell to call them over so they can change the IV bottles. That's all there is. He must stay here and get better."

Frozen, Terrance was left standing there because she had effortlessly told him everything he needed in one go. "Alright, then. I'll be off now. Take good care of him." She gave him a pat on the back and left.

Knowing he could not stop her, he could only watch as her figure slowly disappeared from his sight. Once he could no longer see her, he turned around and entered the ward, but he instantly took a sharp breath once he was inside and saw the others in the room.

I didn't expect Miss Selwyn would place Mr. Cadogan in a shared ward. He's a germaphobe, so how can he stand living with others? While thinking of that, he rushed to the bed and felt instantly relieved after seeing Alaric was still asleep. Thank goodness he's still unconscious.

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At first, Terrance wanted to transport Alaric to another ward while he was still unconscious but noticed little fluid inside the IV drip, so he stayed and waited for the nurse. Once the IV bottle was changed to a new one, he was about to leave. when Alaric's closed eyelids fluttered. Soon, he woke up.

When he opened his eyes, he happened to look into Terrance's terrified ones. "M—Mr. Cadogan, you're awake!"

The eye contact lasted for a moment before Alaric pursed his lips. "Where am I?"

Terrance answered honestly, "The hospital."

Stunned, Alaric seemed to have remembered something and was quiet for a long time before saying, "Help me up."

He had no energy in his limbs, so Terrance obediently came over to help him sit up. Then, he glanced at Terrance and demanded, "Tell me the situation."

Terrance did not need Alaric to remind him because he was about to inform him anyway. "I'm still unsure about your overall health, but I know your gastritis has relapsed, which is why you're sent here. There are still a few IV drips you need to take, so you have to stay in the hospital for a few days."

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Alaric frowned at the mention of staying at the hospital. "I'm not staying here."

"Mr. Cadogan, hear me out. I think it'd be best if you do. If you think the environment here isn't favorable, I can help you to another ward in a better condition than this one."

Once he finished, he noticed Alaric shooting daggers at him with his eyes. He seemed to have lost his voice and whispered, "I know you think your condition doesn't matter, but you fainted before Miss Selwyn, so will you disregard her efforts as well?"

The originally cold expression on Alaric's face instantly changed after hearing that last sentence. "What did you say?" His eyes turned sharp while asking, "Who found me unconscious?"

It seemed like Terrance was startled by Alaric's demeanor and stammered, "M-Miss Selwyn."

Alaric subconsciously asked, "She didn't leave?" Also, I had deliberately demanded that she leave, so when did she return?

Since Terrance was absent from the scene, he did not understand what happened

at the hotel. "What's the matter, Mr. Cadogan?"

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"Didn't you bring me here?" questioned Alaric.

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"No, it wasn't me." Terrance shook his head and explained, "Miss Selwyn used your phone to call me and asked that I come here.

Alaric was speechless. So, that's what happened. But I saw her leave, so why did she return? Why did she do that? As if he thought of something, he sat upright in bed, asking, "Where is she?"

"Oh, she? She left after I arrived." Terrance was unwilling to reveal that fact to Alaric, but after thinking about it, he thought keeping a secret would end badly, so he chose to be honest.

Indeed, once Alaric heard that, his expression immediately darkened. "Left the hospital? Didn't you stop her?"

"I can't." Terrance fidgeted with his fingers. "I don't know her well, so how could I stop her? Also, she's been looking after you for a long while. She even helped your pay the fees and administered you. So, she needs some rest."

Once he was done, he noticed Alaric was silent, and his lips were pursed while he bowed his head, lost in thought. After a while, Alaric lay down and ordered, "Get this thing out of me."

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Terrance realized he meant the needle and quickly rejected, "That can't be done, Mr.

Cadogan. You still haven't finished this bottle, and two more await you. Miss Selwyn ordered me to watch you take them."

"Oh, yeah?" Alaric grinned slightly. "So, are you going to do whatever she tells you? Are you her assistant or mine?"

Terrance rebuked, "I'm just concerned for your health."

"I don't need your concern. I know my body well." With that, he demanded, "Get me discharged."

Terrance did not budge.

"Excuse me?"

Terrance closed his eyes and pretended he did not hear anything. At this point, Alaric could get anyone to do anything except him.

"Terrance Levane, do you still want your job?"

Terrance opened his eyes and angrily rebuked, "Mr. Cadogan, why don't you tell Miss

Selwyn you refuse to finish your IV drips and stay in the hospital instead? Do you

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think Miss Selwyn's the only person who can order you around?"

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Once those words left his lips, he immediately thought of something, and his eyes lit up instantly. That's right. Only Miss Selwyn can order Mr. Cadogan around, so why don't I ask her for help?

"Hold on a minute while I call her." The excited Terrance failed to notice the victorious glimmer in Alaric's eyes.

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She cared about him. That was something Alaric was able to verify.

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Though she appeared heartless and said many harsh words... she returned in the end. Not only that, she even brought him back to the hospital and even waited until Terrance came.

What did this mean? It meant that she cared about him and that she was worried about his well-being. In that case, it meant that there was still hope for him to win her back.

Initially, he didn't want to let her know about his condition, but now that it allowed him some insight, why not use it to his advantage?!

Meanwhile, Terrance tried calling Victoria.

Actually, he didn't have her number, but as an outstanding assistant, he called Henry to ask for Victoria's phone number, and the man gave it to him without a second thought.

"Thanks, dude. Dinner's on me next time."

With that, he quickly dialed Victoria's number.

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At this moment, Victoria had just successfully gotten a cab, but due to peak hours, she had to wait for a long time before the car arrived. As she was about to leave, she received a call. Hello?"

"Miss Selwyn, help!" Terrance yelled frantically on the other end as soon as the call connected, and Victoria instinctively moved the phone further away, taking a few seconds before bringing it close to her ear again. "Mr. Levane?"

Though she had only met him twice, it was not long ago, so she still remembered his voice.

"Yes, yes, it's me." Terrance nodded aggressively on the other end of the line.

"What is it?" asked Victoria, signally the cab driver to hold on for a moment, as she thought Terrance's tone sounded off.

"Miss Selwyn, Mr. Cadogan has awoken."

"Is that so? Good for him, then," said Victoria impassively.

"But he refused to continue the IV drip and insisted on leaving the hospital."

The young woman frowned at once. Why would he refuse the drip when he's so

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seriously ill and insist on being discharged? What is he thinking? Who does he think he is, the Hulk?!

"I tried talking some sense into Mr. Cadogan, Miss Selwyn, but he won't listen to me. Have you left? Do you think... you can come back and persuade him?"

For some reason, an inexplicable burst of anger surged within Victoria at that, and she retorted icily, "Mr. Levane, do you think he'll listen to me when he doesn't even listen to you?"

"Yes! Mr. Cadogan only listens to you now. So please, Miss Selwyn. I beg of you."

Terrance sighed, his tone sincere. "Mr. Cadogan's condition is really severe. Actually, he had fainted and been admitted to the hospital before this, but he wouldn't listen to the doctor at all, so I can only come to you and ask for your help."

"I'm sorry, but no one can help him if he doesn't care about his own health."

Beep, beep...

As the busy tone echoed from the phone, Terrance stood in disbelief, shocked that Victoria had refused without any hesitation.

Does she not care about Mr. Cadogan at all? Now what?! Mr. Cadogan will surely

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only be even more furious if I tell him this.

At that, Terrance turned around with his phone still in hand to head back into the ward, only to find an impassive-looking Alaric standing at the doorway. He had yanked the IV drip needle from his hand, but the wound hadn't been treated, and blood was still trickling down slowly.

The blood flowed along his well-defined fingers, dripping onto the pristine white hospital floor, creating a chilling sight.

"Mr. Cadogan!" Terrance rushed to Alaric at once after recovering from his seconds of stupefaction.

Five minutes later, Alaric returned to his hospital bed, accompanied by a speechless nurse beside him. "Seriously, can't you be a behaving patient? You were on an IV drip, yet you removed the needle and let so much blood flow. Doesn't the wound hurt?"

"We're so sorry for causing you trouble," Terrance could only apologize on behalf of Alaric.

At that, the nurse took a gander at the lifeless Alaric and added, "Don't remove the

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needle again, alright? Seriously, we nurses and doctors are already very busy. Please don't create unnecessary problems,"

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With that, she left, and the ward quieted down after that.

Because of this commotion, the middle-aged man and child sharing the ward with Alaric turned their gazes to him.

"Mommy, that man bled a lot just now," said the boy as he pointed to Alaric while snuggling in his mother's arms, and the mother held him tightly. "He bled because he didn't listen and removed the needle himself. If you be a good boy and listen to the doctor and nurses, Billy, you won't end up like him."

"I'll be a good boy, Mommy."

At that, Terrance scratched his head awkwardly and turned to Alaric. "Mr. Cadogan, how about we just go back to Gandra since you don't want to stay in the hospital? We can have the family doctor go to your place and check on you. Also, it's time that you take good care of your health."

Upon hearing the suggestion of going back to Gandra, Alaric cast a cold glance at him, then lay down expressionlessly, closing his eyes.

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Terrance was rendered at a loss for words, but seeing that Alaric lay down willingly, he couldn't help musing, Does this mean he's staying? Alrighty, then. The hospital it

is.

After returning to the office, Victoria wanted to find Henry to discuss today's investments. However, to her surprise, Bane was waiting for her on the couch. Seeing her return, Bane stood up and took her bag.

"You're back! How did it go?" he asked while fixing her hair, displaying an intimate gesture.

A flicker of panic flashed across Henry's eyes as he stood aside, watching the scene, and quickly averted his gaze, pretending not to have seen anything. Victoria felt somewhat uneasy but still smiled and said, "It was alright. Don't tell me you've been here this whole time."

"Didn't I say I'd wait for you? Who'd pick you up after work if I left?"

Henry couldn't stand it anymore and stood up, clearing his throat. "You two chat. I'll go take care of other things."

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With that, Henry walked away, leaving only Victoria and Bane in the hallway.

"It's freezing outside, isn't it?" Bane commented while pouring Victoria a cup of warm water. "Here, drink some to warm you up."

Victoria held the cup in her hands. The warmth transmitted through the glass, warming her up. That said, she didn't drink it.

"You've agreed to the investment?"

"Yes." Victoria nodded in affirmation. Whether it was due to guilt or not, she took a few sips from the cup.

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Bane fell silent for a moment. For the first time, his smile disappeared from his face.

"Have you really thought it through, letting him invest in your company?"

Victoria nodded in response. "Mainly because Mr. Poole has already agreed. I-

"So what if he did? This is your company, not his."

"That's true, but he also works for my company."

"If you prefer to withdraw, I'll cover any penalties for breaking the contract."

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At that, Victoria furrowed her brows. "There's no need for that."

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"Why? Are you reluctant?"

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"It's not that I'm reluctant to withdraw," Victoria instinctively retorted. "I'm just busy with work. The company needs to operate, and development requires finding investments. Mr. Poole used to be a manager in a big company, and Cadogan Group is indeed the best choice. Besides, I've already put it behind me; I don't care anymore. So what harm is there in collaborating? It won't affect me. Am I supposed

to run away every time I encounter him in Jasea?"

"Is that so? Are you sure you won't be affected anymore?"

"I'm positive."

"Very well. You'll say yes then."

"To what?" Victoria asked.

"To being with me."

For the first time, there was no smile or gentleness on Bane's face.

Victoria gazed dazedly at him, stunned that he would suddenly press her on like this. "You..."

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"Didn't you say you won't be affected anymore? What were you going to tell me in the car before Mr. Poole's call? "Bane bore into her. "You said you won't be affected. Now tell me, has your mindset changed since then?"

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Victoria fell silent, for she realized she couldn't retort to him.

One thought arose, and one thought settled.

At that time, she did want to tell Bane that she could try dating him if he was okay with it. But now, she was having second thoughts.

As for why, she didn't know either.

Then again, thoughts change over time.

"Victoria," Bane urged, seeing that she remained silent. "Say something."

Victoria couldn't utter a word but only lowered her gaze, feeling somewhat disheartened. "You're right," she said. "I have indeed been influenced, but this

influcé is only related to the passage of time. It has nothing to do with anyone.”

“Nothing to do with anyone?” Bane scoffed. “Is that what your heart really tells you?”

“Of course!”

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The next second, Bane cupped her cheeks tenderly and held her chin, raising her head.

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Everything went dark before her eyes as Bane leaned down, pressing his gentle, thin lips against her forehead.

Victoria froze, and when she finally reacted and tried to struggle, Bane clasped her wrists.

As she looked up, she met a pair of injured eyes.

For the first time, Victoria saw the expression in Bane’s eyes through the lenses- hurt, unease, and fear.

“Don’t keep pushing me away, Victoria. Five years... All I want is a chance to stay by your side. Even if you don’t like me, at least take a couple more glances at me, please? He’s hurt you. He’s no longer worthy of you. Don’t look back anymore. Say yes, will you?”

His plea moved Victoria, and her eyelashes trembled slightly. “I... I have to think about it,” she finally said after a long moment of silence.

“How long?” Bane asked, his voice low and deep. “I don’t want to wait anymore,

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Victoria.”

This side of Bane made Victoria somewhat helpless, especially when faced with his usually gentle and smiling eyes that were now filled with immense pain. She couldn't help but feel that she owed him a lot.

"O—One week?" she uttered with hesitation.

"No." Bane, who was usually easygoing and accommodating, shook his head and rejected her proposal this time, causing the young woman to widen her eyes slightly. "Six days then?"

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"Three," Bane asserted firmly despite sounding gentle. "I will only wait for three days, Victoria."

He wouldn't retreat any further, regardless of what her thoughts would be after three days.

Three days is a little tough, but... it's still better than where I am now.

At that, Victoria nodded with drooped eyelids. "Alright, three days."

Having obtained the answer he wanted, Bane finally released her. Following that, his usual smile returned.

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"It seems like you have something to discuss with Mr. Poole. I'll go and call him in."

With that, Bane walked out.

As soon as he left, Victoria's originally tense body instantly relaxed, and she also breathed a sigh of relief. She was like a fish on the verge of death on the shore, suddenly returning to the water, finally able to breathe normally.

Victoria leaned back on the couch and closed her eyes, feeling somewhat exhausted.

Bane... He's really changed a lot. I always thought he was gentle and easygoing, but he is so assertive and dominant today. It feels like he won't let me go easily if I don't go along with him.

Noises came from outside, and Henry entered. "Boss?"

After entering, Henry took a peek outside and wanted to say something to Victoria.

But afraid of being heard, he quickly ran outside the door.

Once he was certain Bane wasn't outside, he finally closed the door and walked up to Victoria enigmatically. "You okay, boss?"

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His sudden closeness startled Victoria. "What are you doing?"

"Nothing. Just checking to see if you're okay."

Victoria was speechless. "I'll be okay if you keep your distance."

Henry didn't heed her advice and instead sat down next to her. Still, he maintained an appropriate distance between them.

"So? Are you going to say yes?"

Victoria frowned at once. "Were you eavesdropping?"

"Correction, I wasn't eavesdropping. I was right outside, and you two were speaking quite loudly. So, you can't blame me for overhearing."

Victoria was rendered at a loss for words at that.

"Are you really going to be with him and not give Mr. Cadogan another chance?"

"Another chance? For what?"

"It looks to me that Mr. Cadogan wants to win your heart back."

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Victoria smirked in response. "Now that sounds like a joke."

Me, go back to Alaric? Have I not learned enough lessons from him?!

"Does it? But look at that friend of yours. He looks to be in such a panic that he's desperate for you to be with him. But..." At that, Henry let his words trail.

"But what?"

"But I can't help but think there's something off about your friend." Henry clicked his tongue, causing Victoria to frown. "What do you mean?"

"Don't get me wrong. I just think something's not right with him after overhearing your conversation with him."

The more she listened, the more Victoria felt that something was wrong. She had a feeling that Henry was badmouthing Bane.

"I mean, he keeps saying he's waiting for you, pretending to be generous and all, but in reality, he's pressuring you step by step, trying to use your sympathy to be with him. Try and think about it."

"That's enough." Victoria stood up abruptly and gazed at Henry with displeasure. Mr.

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Poole, I hope you're just the manager I hired to take care of the company and that you won't interfere in my personal affairs or pass judgment on my friends"

Henry wasn't upset at all. In fact, he shrugged nonchalantly and said, "Okay, I'm just letting you know because I overheard it. Since you don't like hearing it, I won't bring

it up again.”

That said, Henry still couldn't help reminding her, “But I still have to warn you to be careful around him.

Victoria said nothing in response.

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In the quiet night at the hospital, Terrance stared worryingly at the several dishes spread out on the table, then shifted his gaze to his boss, who refused to eat any of them. “Mr. Cadogan, it's been a whole day. You have to at least eat something.” He sighed.

However, Alaric, leaning against the headboard, only quietly stared at his phone with his wireless earphones in his ears.

At that, Terrance leaned over for a glance and found two adorable children live streaming.

He felt rather speechless, baffled that his boss would rather watch two kids than eat anything. That said, an idea popped into his head as he stared numbly at the screen.

What if he registered a side account and texted these two, saying that he had a friend who really enjoyed watching their live streams but was now seriously ill and refused to eat properly or accept treatment? Could they persuade him?

It just might work. Boss might just listen to these two kids if they express their wishes for him to eat as he should on screen.

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Upon considering it, Terrance quietly took out his phone and started operating it. Due to his busy work schedule, Terrance never had time to use any social media platforms, so he was able to create a new account directly using his phone number. And after fumbling for a while, he finally entered the livestream channel.

However, Alaric's piercing gaze swept over to him at once. "What are you doing?" "N-Nothing." Terrance cleared his throat, feeling somewhat guilty, and said, "You've been watching them, and I thought they were cute, so I wanted to see for myself. what's so interesting."

Despite staring icily at him for quite some time, Alaric said nothing in the end but only withdrew his gaze.

While the assistant breathed a sigh of relief, he quietly texted in the channel. 'Hello, little ones! Good evening. Are you doing homework? How cute!'

He had originally intended to type a long comment before sending it, but his finger accidentally hit a key, and the comment was sent out.

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As he was using a new ID, Alaric swept his piercing gaze over to him again once the pliment them"

haps because of what he had to do later, Terrance fall particularly guilty

And Alaric seemingly able to sense that his assistant was up to something, wamed bay pot do anything unnecessary"

Ty quirked his lips and said nothing.

He didn't do anything under Alaric's watchful gaze, but as soon as Alaric looked away Terrance quickly typed, 'Here's the story. My friend really enjoys watching your live streams, but he's currently seriously ill and in a bad state of mind. He refuses to

eat or accept treatment. If you can see this, could you help me persuade him? My friend is also watching your live stream right now.'

After editing the content, Terrance took a deep breath and risked being reprimanded by Alaric later as he sent out the comment.

Sure enough, after the comment was sent, Alaric looked up once again and gave

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him a deathly stare. "Do you have nothing better to do?"

"Would I have to do this if you'd just eat?!" Terrace retorted, biting the bullet.

Alaric's gaze turned icy, and he moved his thin lips to speak, but just as he did, a voice came through the earphones, capturing both of their attention.

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"Hmm?" Nathan checked the chat box just as he finished the homework assigned by his teacher and happened to catch Terrance's comment. Others replied to him as well.

"Oh, no, is your friend okay now? When you're sick, you must receive proper treatment."

"Wishing you a speedy recovery!"

The audience on the channel was very sweet.

Nathan leaned over to take a closer look, and his adorable and delicate face instantly appeared right in front of the camera.

*"F*cking hell!" Terrance couldn't help swearing, shock evident in his eyes as he*

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stared at the close-up of the tiny face on the screen.

H

He thought his eyes were playing tricks on him, for he thought the child looked like a mini version of Alaric.

As such, Terrance shifted his gaze between Alaric and Nathan a few times, and the more he looked, the more bizarre he thought it was. In fact, in the end, he was rendered speechless.

Before this, he only knew that Alaric had a habit of checking out the two children's live streams and knew that they resembled Alaric. However, this was his first time seeing the little one's face so up close. The boy had exquisitely shaped eyebrows and eyes, an innocence that had yet to fade. However, he was already exhibiting a hint of coldness and maturity, resembling Alaric to an uncanny degree.

In the past, the children who had undergone plastic surgery, though tragic, their surgically enhanced features were visibly unnatural. However, the delicate skin of this little one was still visible in such close proximity.

"I saw your text, mister. How should I address you?"

Having been called out, Terrance responded at once. 'You can just call me mister. By the way, my friend's last name is Cadogan. You guys can just call him Mr. Cadogan.'

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Terrance initially thought that having the children call his boss 'Alaric' would make him feel younger and maybe happier, but after a second thought, he felt it was not appropriate, so he quickly added, saying, "The standard form of address."

Alaric felt rather speechless at Terrance's long reply.

Terrance could only chuckle awkwardly.

On the other end, Nathan looked into the camera and spoke earnestly. "Hello, Mr. Cadogan. Thank you for watching our live stream. I heard that you're sick. I don't know what illness you have, but you should see a doctor and take your medicine when you're sick, and only then you'll get better."

The boy was very young, yet his ability to articulate was impressive, and he immediately hit the key points Terrance was aiming for.

So much so that the assistant couldn't help giving the boy a thumb's up through the screen. "Well done."

"I hope you stay healthy and happy, Mr. Cadogan. Remember to eat well and take care of yourself so you can continue watching our live streams."

This child is truly amazing, Terrance thought and glanced up at Alaric only to find

******ed, but upon reflection, he realized that his boom' hom
ang time. If anyone's words could easily have an
wouldn't have become so serious.*

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956 (alisation, Terrance suddenly didn't feel like talking much.

*Meanwhile, Noded curiously over when she heard her twin brother suddenly
aking to es*

*Though she wasn't sure why her brother would say all that he did, she still imitated
him, and brought her adorable face close to the camera after Nathan finished
speaking saving sweetly Please take care of yourself, okay, Mr. Cadogan? Get well
SOOT, AND VISE Nathan and me more often in our live streams!"*

voce and smie meted Terrance's heart at once. He looked up at Alaric and saw hm sting query in bed. A faint smile had appeared at the corners of his eyes,

Treneress

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It's working! Terrance thought his efforts hadn't been for nothing when he saw the touch of warmth on Alaric's face, and he asked excitedly, "Shall we eat something, Mr. Cadogan?"

Lo and behold, Alaric's answer came like a wet blanket thrown onto him. "Did I say I want to eat? Didn't I tell you not to do anything unnecessary?"

Terrance was stunned. "Why? Weren't you just..."

The hint of warmth in the corner of Alaric's eyes had disappeared, and now, he had returned to the distant and aloof man he usually was.

At this point, Alaric had lost all patience in entertaining his assistant. He recalled the words of the two little ones who had wished him well and felt comforted.

Strange, though, that he would be healed by two little strangers through a screen.

At that, he swiped his phone and rewarded the twins again.

"Hmm?" Nicole widened her twinkling eyes when she saw the reward notification on the phone and said, "You're here too, Mr. Night?! Hi, Mr. Night! Thank you for your reward!"

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The little girl's cute and childish demeanor was exactly the same as when he met her on the plane. However, this 'Mr. Night' was a stranger to her. She didn't know she had seen him on the plane, and she didn't know he was the same person on the

live-streaming channel.

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Nathan, who was beside her, scratched his head as he didn't expect Mr. Night to send rewards again. No matter how many times he said it, it didn't work. Nathan could only watch as this person named Silent Night sent wave after wave of rewards.

Wealthy and generous—That was Nathan's only impression of 'Silent Night.'

Mr. Night would always watch and send them many rewards every time he and Nicole did a live stream. So, when Nicole expressed her gratitude, Nathan would also follow suit and say, "Thank you for the gift, Mr. Night."

Terrance was watching the live stream when he suddenly noticed someone sending rewards continuously. The colorful gift notifications kept popping up on the screen, and it was then he finally had a moment of epiphany. "Mr. Cadogan, you're not actually Silent Night, are you?"

Shoot, how much money had he just spent in this one go? Then again, what might be a fortune to Terrance was measly to Alaric. So, there was no reason for Terrance Chapter 246 Refuse to Eat

to care or feel bad for Alaric at all.

If anything, he should be worrying about his boss' health, and the number one priority was to get Alaric to eat. Hence, Terrance changed the topic without waiting for Alaric to answer him. "Are you really not going to eat, sir? Not even a few bites? I'll have to call Miss Selwyn if you continue to resist."

At that, Alaric stopped whatever he was doing and gazed at Terrance, who was rendered stupefied. Is it me, or does Mr. Cadogan look a little excited?

As such, he pulled his phone out and probed, "I'm going to call her now."

Alaric lifted his brows slightly, showing no signs of stopping the assistant. Alright, I see where we're going with this now. With that, he dialed Victoria's number.

Meanwhile, in the kitchen of the Selwyn household, Teresa urged Victoria to leave the house chores to her. "Please leave this to me, Miss Selwyn. This is my job."

"Don't worry about it. I'm free right now anyway," said Victoria as she put the bowls into the sterilizer.

Teresa sighed as she looked at the beautiful and gentle lady of the house in front of her. Although she had only worked for Victoria for a little over a month, Victoria was

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the best employer she had ever seen.

Just as Victoria was cleaning up, her phone rang, and Teresa immediately took the job over. "Miss Selwyn, your phone is ringing. Let me handle the rest."

"Alright."

The young woman could only go out and answer the call. "Hello?"

"Miss Selwyn."

The familiar voice caught Victoria off guard. "Mr. Levane?" Why has he called again?

"I'm sorry for calling at such a late night, Miss Selwyn."

Victoria pressed her lips together and asked plainly, "What's up?"

Terrance was about to speak when Alaric gestured for him to turn on the speaker.

Hence, the assistant did as told, stuttering, "Well, Mr. Cadogan, he, um, he still refuses to eat. So, can you-"

"Mr. Levane," Victoria interjected at once. "Mr. Alaric Cadogan is a full-grown adult

who is well capable of deciding whether he should or needs to eat. If he refuses to eat, it only means that he knows how his body is doing.”

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With that, she hung up the call.

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Terrance was at a loss for words. He kept his head hung low while holding his phone in his hand, ruining the moment. Great, just great... I should have pretended to not notice that Boss wanted to put the phone on speaker...

He didn't even need to look up to know Alaric was oozing with grimness.

“M–Mr. Cadogan...”

“Get lost.”

Terrance dared not speak and silently got up, leaving with his phone in hand.

Alaric, on the other hand, sat grimly in his bed and exited the live-streaming channel.

He couldn't even continue watching the live stream anymore.

He exited the stream so quickly that he missed the gentle voice of a woman that appeared right after he exited the live stream. “Nathan, Nicole, it's time to end the live stream for today.”

Alas, if Alaric had just left TikTok a second later, he would've been able to catch Victoria's voice.

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“Alright, that concludes today’s live stream. Goodbye, everyone.”

After ending the live stream, Victoria put the phone away and asked, “Have you finished your homework today?”

“Yes, Mommy.”

Sensing something, Nicole hugged Victoria’s shoulder and asked, “Mommy, did someone call you just now?”

“Yes.” Victoria nodded after a split second stomp.

“Was it Mr. Bane?”

“No,” said Victoria and continued after a beat, deciding to explain it clearly to the twins. “It was a business partner. He told me a client refusing to eat, but I’ve already resolved it.”

“Refusing to eat?” The kids blinked in response, and Nathan added, “What a coincidence, Mommy. There was also a man in the live stream who refused to eat. His friend commented to tell us about it.”

“Oh. What’s the story?” Victoria asked, puzzled.

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With that, the twins related the event to her, and she couldn’t help sighing, “What a coincidence.”

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However, she didn’t dwell on it because Nicole mentioned next how Silent Night had sent them a lot of rewards.

“Alright, I know now.”

After the two children went to bed, Victoria took out the livestream phone to check and indeed found that the person named Silent Night had sent a ton of money again.

She sighed in response. This man sure has money to burn.

After finding the user, she clicked on their profile. The profile picture was exactly the same as their WhatsApp profile picture, without any updates. However, Victoria quickly discovered something important—this person’s IP address was in Jasea.

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Jassa? Victoria paused for a moment when she saw that the person was also in Jassa. After a few seconds, she couldn’t help but sigh. There had been too many coincidences lately.

Before coming here, she thought Jasea was a quiet city where she wouldn’t see familiar faces so frequently while running her company here.

Who would have thought.....

At the thought of a certain person, Victoria set aside her phone. Oh well, so what if we meet? Jasea is just this big. I want to run a company and make money with it, and he has invested in my company. There is no avoiding our connection. That’s just how it is. I should treat him as a normal business partner.

However, despite thinking this way, Victoria couldn’t fall asleep that night.

As she tossed and turned in bed, her mind was filled with the words the doctor and Terrance had said to her.

The man in question still insisted on not taking medication despite clearly suffering
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from severe gastritis. It was ridiculous, really. How could an adult neglect their health like this? He must be well aware of the consequences if he continued like this.

For him to still act that way must mean he was prepared to face the music by himself. And if he didn’t care, it wasn’t her place to intervene either.

No, of course, it’s not my place to do that. If anyone should intervene, it would be Claudia.

With these thoughts in mind, Victoria turned over again.

She just couldn’t understand why Terrance wouldn’t call Claudia.

Why did he have to call her instead?

The more she thought about it, the more confused her mind became. That was how the night became sleepless for Victoria.

When the alarm clock rang the next morning, she wouldn’t have been able to get up if it weren’t for her strong willpower.

After getting up, she went on with her usual routine by taking care of the children's
2/9

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breakfast and preparing to take them to school.

Teresa noticed that she didn't seem to have much energy and asked, concerned,
"Miss Selwyn, did you not sleep well last night? You seem a bit off."

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At this, Victoria could only smile bitterly and nod. "I had a bit of insomnia last night."
3/9

"I see." Teresa immediately seized the opportunity to offer help. "Why don't you rest
at home for a while if you don't have much to do at the company, Miss Selwyn? I can
take the two children to school for you."

As soon as she finished speaking, the doorbell rang.

"I'll get the door!" Teresa hurriedly ran to open the door, only to see that it was Bane.
"Mr. Morison, you're here!"

At the sight of Bane, she suddenly realized how with him around, even if she wanted
to take the children to school, she wouldn't get her chance to do that.

She had hoped to make a good impression on her wonderful employee so that she
wouldn't lose her job in the future.

Sure enough, after Bane arrived, he said he would take Victoria's children to school.

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This had been going on for several days now. Before Victoria could say anything, the
two children eagerly ran toward Bane.

Victoria could only watch as Bane took the children away.

After he left, Teresa sighed. "Miss Selwyn, Mr. Morison sure treats you and the
children well."

"Mhm."

But it was precisely because he was so kind to them that she always felt guilty
toward him.

She would rather not have someone treat her so well.

Teresa wanted to say something else, but with her discerning eyes after being a
nanny for so many years, she noticed Victoria's lack of enthusiasm and quickly fell
silent.

Once Victoria was done tidying up, she said to Teresa, "I'm leaving now. I have to
take the subway."

"Alright, Miss Selwyn. Please take care and stay safe."

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Upon arriving at the company, Victoria realized that there were many cars parked
downstairs. She saw two cars vying for the same parking space as soon as she got
there.

However, the white car accidentally grazed the rear of the black car because it was
going too fast.

Although it was just a minor collision, Victoria knew that a dispute was about to
begin.

Sure enough, after the cars collided, both parties got out of their vehicles and started arguing about the parking space and the collision.

She was already accustomed to seeing such things. After shaking her head, she walked toward the office building.

Usually, she was the only one taking the elevator, but several others were waiting for the elevator with her today.

One of them was a bespectacled young man with a refined and clean appearance.

Seeing her beautiful face and unique temperament, he couldn't help but greet her.

"Hi, are you here for the job interview as well?"

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Victoria was slightly taken aback at the question. "Are you talking to me?"

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"Yes." The young man with glasses nodded and smiled, his smile pure. "You're very beautiful."

She had never received such a straightforward compliment in the country before.

However, the way he said it seemed sincere and was not at all creepy. So, she also smiled. "Thank you. Are you here for the interview?"

"I am." As soon as they started talking about this, the young man's eyes lit up. "Did you also see that job posting? Cadogan Group has invested in this small company. I tried to join Cadogan Group before but wasn't successful, so I decided to settle for this opportunity. I believe any company selected by Cadogan Group must be outstanding."

Victoria finally understood why there were so many people downstairs and in the elevator when she heard that.

So, they are all here for the job interview after seeing the job posting? The recruitment is currently handled by Henry. Did he already post about the vacancies.

yesterday afternoon or night even though he only sent in his application yesterday?

"We're here for the interview too."

—

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Perhaps overhearing their conversation, others started to chime in with a smile.

"What positions are you applying for? This company seems to have vacancies for various positions."

Once the floodgates of conversation opened, everyone started discussing their own job applications.

Victoria listened quietly as they talked about applying for different positions. Before long, the elevator reached their floor.

Everyone went out of the elevator together.

As the space was spacious, everyone was still searching for the interview area.

Victoria, on the other hand, pointed directly to a certain place.

"The interview area is over there. Just walk straight along this way, take a right turn, and then push open the door."

"Brilliant, thanks."

After knowing where to go, the others wanted to say something to her again, only to

see that Victoria had already walked off in another direction.

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“Hold up. How does she know this place so well?”

“Where did she go?”

“She’s gone. Could she be an employee here?”

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Although they didn’t know who Victoria was, they found out that she wasn’t there to interview like the rest of them were.

Victoria proceeded to spend the morning in the office. As lunchtime approached, Henry came to her. “I’ve been busy interviewing all morning. Why didn’t you come over and see if there’s anything you can help with?”

“I had something to take care of here. Besides, I trust you are a good judge of character. How many have you hired?”

“About four or five. They seemed suitable, so I asked them to come tomorrow. I still have to interview dozens more this afternoon.”

“That’s a lot, isn’t it?” Although she had anticipated this might happen, she was still surprised to hear the number of people that had come.

“What else can we do? That’s why I suggested you approach Cadogan Group

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straight away. A large corporation’s power to attract applicants in the city is beyond your imagination.”

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Indeed, this was something Victoria couldn’t deny.

3

She began to think of a certain someone who was lying in a hospital bed at this moment.

However, she quickly dismissed that fleeting thought.

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She couldn’t afford to think about him anymore. She couldn’t let her thoughts be disrupted by him after persevering for five years, especially now that she was back in the country.

She had to follow her own path.

When her phone rang at this exact moment, she took it out and glanced at the screen.

“It’s Jordan Floyd.”

“Mr. Floyd? Why is he calling you? Could it be that he also wants to...”

“Surely not. Let me take this call.”

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Being the self-aware man that Henry was, he nodded and left the room.

“Mr. Floyd?”

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Victoria hadn’t spoken to Jordan again since the day she left his company. Knowing that he wouldn’t invest in her company anymore, she felt it was unnecessary to waste any more time. However, she didn’t want to make an enemy out of Jordan if she wanted to develop her business in Jasea.

“Miss Selwyn! How are things at your company these days? I apologize for what happened that day.”

“It’s alright.”

“Here’s the thing. Even though I can’t directly invest in your company, I can have my people promote your company. Wouldn’t that be effective as well? What do think?”

you

Having Floyd Corporation’s people talk about them should also yield results.

Even though Victoria felt grateful, she expressed her gratitude and rejected him.

“Thank you for thinking of doing that, Mr. Floyd, but our company’s matter has already been resolved.”

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“Resolved?”

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Jordan was astonished to learn that her company had secured an investment. “How was it resolved? And which company?”

Victoria pursed her lips, contemplating for a moment before deciding to tell him.

“It’s Cadogan Group.”

Jordan remarked, “I thought that guy could keep it in, but he actually surrendered so quickly!”

Victoria remained silent in response to his comment.

However, Jordan didn’t stop there. “He is going to great lengths to pursue you.”

Victoria fell into a momentary silence before correcting him, “Mr. Floyd, please be careful with your words. We are only in a business partnership.”

“Do you think he only wants to be business partners with you? Do you not like him?”

Before she could reply, Jordan playfully interjected, “If you’re not interested in him, how about I pursue you?”

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He added again when he got no reply from Victoria. “Just kidding. I wouldn’t dare.

touch his woman.”

“Once again, I have no relationship with him. If we must consider any connection, it’s a business relationship. Mr. Floyd, I respect you, and I hope you respect me too.”

Her tone and voice suddenly became serious, making Jordan realize he had misspoken. He immediately apologized.

“Sorry! I didn’t mean to offend you. Since that’s the case, I’ll definitely mind my words next time.”

After hanging up the phone, Victoria realized her emotions were fluctuating greatly. She took a deep breath, but before she could calm herself, her phone rang again. Seeing the caller ID, Victoria felt her anger skyrocket. She answered the call without waiting for the other person to speak and retorted, “Mr. Levane, can you please stop harassing me? Whether Mr. Cadogan wants to eat or not-”

“Miss Selwyn, Mr. Cadogan has collapsed.” She heard Terrance’s panicked voice on the other end of the call. “He even coughed up blood a moment ago.”

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Victoria froze upon hearing those three words.

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When Victoria hurriedly arrived at the hospital, she overheard the doctor saying to Terrance, “He has already coughed up blood. There’s nothing more I can do if he doesn’t accept proper treatment and rest.”

“I’m truly sorry, Doc. I’ll make sure to relay this to Mr. Cadogan once he wakes up.”

The doctor, irritated by Alaric’s disregard for his own life, spoke without reservation.

“If he wants to die, he shouldn’t come to the hospital or have me treat him.”

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Terrance couldn't utter a word when he was reprimanded. He could only nod weakly in agreement.

Observing from aside, Victoria could tell from the doctor's reaction that Alaric's condition was likely particularly severe this time.

Afterward, the doctor said something to Terrance before going out abruptly, leaving a crestfallen Terrance who looked like an abandoned puppy leaning against the wall with his head lowered in despair.

After a moment of silence, Victoria walked over to his side.

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Terrance looked up when he heard her move, and it was only then that Victoria realized that the manly man's eyes had turned red.

She wasn't sure if his reddened eyes were due to the doctor's harsh words or his concern for Alaric.

Upon seeing her, Terrance snapped out of his stupor and quickly turned away.

Victoria didn't say anything about what she saw. She only quietly stood there while she waited for him to calm his emotions.

After approximately two minutes, he turned back to face her.

"Miss Selwyn."

Victoria nodded upon seeing him regain his composure and gently patted his shoulder in reassurance. "How is he now?"

"He just received emergency treatment," Terrance replied. He was on the verge of

sobbing again.

Victoria fell silent when he said that. She didn't know what to say.

After a while, she finally uttered, "Take me to him, please."

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"Yes, Miss Selwyn."

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As Terrance led her to the hospital room, he kept expressing his gratitude. "Thank you, Miss Selwyn. Thank you for coming. I don't know what I would have done otherwise."

Listening to his words, Victoria couldn't hold back anymore.

"Can't you call someone else besides me? What about... his family?"

She had initially intended to mention Claudia, but she hesitated and opted to mention his family instead.

Terrance responded in a matter-of-fact manner, "Miss Selwyn, this has happened before. If Mr. Cadogan were willing to listen to his family, things wouldn't have escalated *to* this point."

He doesn't want to listen to his family? "You mean, he doesn't listen to anyone?"

"Yes, their words are useless. That's why I've been at a loss," he replied.

To be honest, Victoria found it hard to believe. He had once held Claudia in such high regard, so how could he suddenly ignore even her words?

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If there would come a day when he wouldn't even listen to Claudia, Victoria didn't think her words would be of much use.

Not wanting to dwell on this topic any longer, she decided to ask about his medical condition.

"How long has he had gastritis?"

"It's been a long time."

"And he never took medicine or received treatment?"

"No, that's not it. Mr. Cadogan occasionally takes medicine, but he rarely eats. It's not that he doesn't want to. He genuinely has no appetite and has lost interest in food."

Upon hearing this, Victoria froze. "Does he have anorexia?"

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"That hasn't been diagnosed so far. After all, he sometimes eats a little when he is in the mood or when he has an appetite."

Victoria began to grasp Alaric's condition at this point.

"How long has this been going on?"

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Terrance scratched his head, seemingly deep in thought. "Around three years, I think. I'm not entirely sure. It seems that Mr. Cadogan's condition worsened after Old Mrs. Cadogan's passing."

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Upon hearing this, Victoria, who had been walking steadily, abruptly stopped in her tracks. She looked at Terrance in disbelief and choked in a shaky voice, "What did you say?"

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Terrance, lost in his thoughts, had not noticed anything unusual about Victoria. However, he did stop walking when he noticed her footsteps coming to a halt. He then continued to explain, "What I meant was, Mr. Cadogan's condition was relatively better before Old Mrs. Cadogan passed away. Although he would still drink alcohol, he would refrain from doing so for a period of time before meeting Old Mrs. Cadogan so that the scent wouldn't give him away. But ever since Old Mrs. Cadogan's passing, there hasn't been anyone who could control Mr. Cadogan." Even though Terrance spoke at length, Victoria could only see his lips moving; she couldn't hear a single word.

In an instant, all the surrounding sounds vanished for Victoria.

Her ears seemed to be enveloped in a mist, and all she could hear was a buzzing sound. The clarity of her vision also lowered. She could see Terrance's moving lips. at first, but gradually, it blurred until she couldn't see anything at all.

"Miss Johnson wanted to persuade Mr. Cadogan before, but it was futile. He doesn't listen to her at all, and he's even reluctant to meet her. But you, Miss Selwyn, are different. Mr. Cadogan listens to you, so-"

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Midway through Terrance's words, he suddenly heard a thud behind him.

He turned his head and found Victoria collapsed on the ground.

"Miss Selwyn!"

After Victoria fainted, Terrance gently lifted the boneless woman up. He called out to her a few times to rouse her, but when she didn't respond, he quickly carried her and sought help.

Alaric woke up in the ward so quiet only the sounds of hospital instruments could be heard.

Lying in bed, he noticed that there was a needle in his hand again for IV therapy.

This sight filled him with deep animosity. Just as he was considering getting up, heard voices from outside.

"Push slowly, please."

Terrance, accompanied by two nurses, soon brought a hospital bed into the room.

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Alaric couldn't see who was lying on the bed, but he could clearly read the anxious expression on Terrance's face.

He subconsciously frowned then. I'm sick, but he's worrying about someone else?

He even brought them to my ward!

At the thought of this, his face instantly turned gloomy.

If he had the strength, he would have probably sat up already.

“Thank you.”

After bringing the person in, the two nurses left.

Terrance went out of his way to see them off before he closed the door. Upon returning to the bed, he suddenly met with Alaric’s icy gaze.

There was a brief pause before he quickly came back to his senses.

“Mr. Cadogan, you’re awake.”

Alaric, however, looked at him coldly. “What were you doing just now?”

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“Uh... I wasn’t doing anything.”

“Who did you bring into my room?”

Terrance had forgotten about Victoria fainting when he saw Alaric wake up.

Now that Alaric brought it up, he suddenly turned pale as he recalled what just happened.

“Oh, it’s Miss Selwyn!”

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Alaric, who had been ice-cold, narrowed his eyes dangerously upon hearing those words.

“What did you say?”

“Miss Selwyn fainted.”

4/9

Upon hearing that it was Victoria who had been brought into the room earlier, Alaric suddenly tried to sit up from the bed. However, his movement was too abrupt, and he lacked strength as he had just woken up from an emergency rescue. As he attempted to get up, he aggravated his wound, resulting in him falling heavily back onto the bed.

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“Mr. Cadogan, don’t get up! I’ll tell you what happened!”

Seeing this, Terrance hurriedly went over and held Alaric down. “Miss Selwyn is fine. I already had the doctor check on her.”

“Why did she pass out if she’s fine? Help me up.”

Gritting his teeth, Alaric exerted his strength and struggled against Terrance’s restraint.

Terrance could feel the force he was exerting. Left with no choice, he eventually had to let go and help Alaric up.

Afterward, he examined Alaric’s hand injury again to make sure it was okay before he supported Alaric over to Victoria’s bed while he pushed the IV pole along.

Victoria, in a state of unconsciousness, had a pale complexion. Even her usually rosy lips had lost their color, making her look particularly frail and exhausted.

The sight of Victoria like this felt like a sudden jab in Alaric’s heart.

His thin lips twitched as he asked, “What happened?”

Terrance was also puzzled.

Chapter 249 Have You Gone Mad?”

“I... I’m not quite sure. I told Miss Selwyn that you coughed up blood, and she came to the hospital. Her complexion looked fine when she arrived. She just fainted all of a sudden.”

“What did the doctor say?”

“The doctor said it seemed like she had received quite a shock, but there is nothing wrong with her body. They can only observe her and let her rest until she wakes up.”

Shock?

Alaric narrowed his elongated eyes. He didn’t believe that her hearing about his coughing up blood would startle her to such an extent that she would rush to the hospital. Still, he believed it.

However...

Something must have happened after that.

“Did something else happened when you were on your way here?”

Terrance sounded perplexed. “Nothing happened. We were rushing to your ward, and she asked me some questions. I was in the middle of answering when I turned around and saw her collapse.”

6/9

Chapter 249 Have You Gone Mad?

Questions?

Alaric had a feeling that the cause probably lay in the questions Victoria asked.

“What did she ask?”

Terrance answered honestly, “Miss Selwyn asked how long you have been ill, and I told her the truth.”

“Just that?”

“Just that. There was nothing else.” Terrance couldn’t understand why she passed out while they were having a normal conversation. Could it be that there is something wrong with Miss Selwyn’s health?

But after the examination, the doctor said all her readings were quite normal. If she fainted for no apparent reason, it was likely due to excessive shock.

Then again, there was nothing particularly startling in the corridor. Terrance started *to* wonder if he had said something wrong.

But I only answered her questions. I can’t think of anything—Wait a minute.

Terrance’s face instantly fell when he suddenly realized something.

7/9

Chapter 249 Have You Gone Mad?

“M—Mr. Cadogan, I think I may have figured out why Miss Selwyn fainted.”

Impatiently, Alaric urged, “Go on.”

“And it might be... quite a serious reason.”

B

Alaric must have thought Terrance was being overly long-winded because he was now staring at the latter unhappily.

“Mr. Cadogan, Miss Selwyn asked me about how long you’ve been this way, and I...”

Terrance gulped. “I mentioned Old Mrs. Cadogan’s passing.”

Alaric’s eyes which were filled with annoyance grew the biggest they could get. that instant.

When he snapped back to reality, he grabbed the collar of Terrance’s shirt. “Have *you* gone mad?”

Alaric was so agitated that he was so close to punching Terrance.

He knew that there was another reason she passed out. She couldn't have lost consciousness from the shock after hearing about his coughing up blood.

Terrance also felt like crying but the tears wouldn't come.

8/9

Chapter 249 Have You Gone Mad?

He blurted out Griselda's death without thinking too much. After all, Griselda was just an old lady from another family to Victoria.

But judging from Alaric's extreme reaction now, Terrance's guess seemed right.

Chapter 250

"I—I'm sorry, Mr. Cadogan," Terrance pleaded. "I didn't really think it through at that moment when Miss Selwyn asked me about *your* situation. I thought she was concerned about you, so I told her about your circumstances. I didn't mean to..."

1/9

Alaric's breath hitched, and his eyes were filled with a menacing rage as he itched to knock Terrance down. And yet, he managed to suppress it.

He was probably worried about creating a commotion and ending up disturbing Victoria, who was in a deep slumber.

Releasing his grip on Terrance, he held his anger in and uttered, "Leave."

As much as Terrance wished to comply, he couldn't. Instead, he meekly protested, "This IV—"

However, Alaric moved to remove the needle before he could finish his sentence.

Terrance quickly stepped in, blocking Alaric's attempt to remove the needle. "Mr. Cadogan, Miss Selwyn is weak now after passing out. You wouldn't want her to worry about you when she wakes up, would you?"

Alaric's hand froze when he heard those words.

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can't Thin

"Miss Selwyn didn't want to bother with you at first, but she came after she heard that you were coughing up blood. You should receive treatment like a patient, sir."

Terrance began to gain more courage the more he talked. "Other than Miss Selwyn being concerned, have you considered the consequences of neglecting your health, sir? How will you win her back if your health deteriorates?"

As Terrance spoke, Alaric's gaze gradually turned dangerous and deep.

"Mr. Levane, are you teaching me a lesson?" Alaric asked with a threatening look.

"I am not in the position to, sir! I'm just speaking the truth..."

Even though Alaric was angry, he couldn't deny that Terrance's words had struck a chord...

In the end, although Alaric remained furious, he refrained from any further actions. and reluctantly allowed Terrance to stay and hold the IV bag for him.

Terrance managed to hold it at first, but as Alaric stayed by Victoria's side, waiting for her to wake up on top of ignoring Terrance when the latter tried to persuade him to return to his own bed, Terrance could only hang the IV bag by Victoria's bed instead.

2/9

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can't Thin

He then fetched a chair that Alaric could sit on.

"Mr. Cadogan, if you won't go back to your bed, at least sit here for a while," Terrance suggested.

After all, Alaric couldn't possibly refuse now that Terrance had brought the reclining

chair next to Victoria's bed.

As expected, Alaric didn't refuse this time. He followed Terrance's suggestion and took a seat.

Although he didn't lie down, Terrance finally breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Alaric sitting down.

From that moment on, Alaric remained by Victoria's side while Terrance stood guard nearby.

Terrance noticed that Alaric's gaze barely left Victoria. He was fixated on her.

As he watched Alaric, he quietly lamented.

For some reason, he suddenly thought that Alaric had the potential to be someone who couldn't think straight when it came to love.

3/9

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can't Thin

Before this, Terrance had always thought of Alaric as someone who would barely spare a glance at a woman, not even someone as beautiful as Claudia.

Little did he expect that he would get to see Alaric staring at a woman without looking away once.

Terrance did think Victoria was prettier.

While Claudia looked more delicate, and she was the kind of beautiful woman who could easily make a man feel protective over her, Victoria gave off a sense of resilience despite how slender and fragile looking she was. It felt like she wouldn't be easily defeated, and she definitely did not need to rely on a man.

Terrance didn't know what other men thought, but he looked up to women like Victoria more.

Alaric hadn't got a clue what Terrance was thinking.

But even if he knew, he wouldn't have had the time to bother with it.

Because at this moment, he was solely focused on Victoria. He knew all too well what his grandmother's death meant to her.

4/9

Chapter 250 Potential

Someone Who Can Think

He had tested her at first. Hearing those harsh words she spoke, he felt both disappointed and relieved.

It might actually be for the better for her to not consider Griselda's family after the divorce.

That way, she wouldn't be sad over the elderly woman's death.

She went to the hotel afterward and asked about his grandmother. From that moment on, Alaric knew she was only putting on a tough front.

And now, she passed out upon hearing the news.

5/9

Alaric couldn't begin to imagine what would happen when she woke up. It was good that she was still unconscious and unaware of everything, but what about when she woke up?

With these thoughts in mind, Alaric unknowingly reached out and gently held her wrist.

Seconds went by.

Just like that, Alaric and Terrance stayed by her side in the ward.

65%

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can't Thin

Some time must have passed before Victoria's phone in her purse began to ring.

6/9

Terrance immediately got up and fetched Victoria's bag and handed it to Alaric.

Carefully unzipping it since Alaric couldn't use his hands, Terrance retrieved the phone from inside.

Alaric's face darkened with just a glance at the caller ID.

Bane Morison.

"If Miss Selwyn hadn't lost consciousness and got hospitalized, it would be the end of her working hours by now. I'm sure her colleagues have left. Is this her family member calling her? Mr. Cadogan, should I answer the call and let them know she's okay?"

"No need." In what way is Bane her family?

"Huh? No?"

Alaric's expression turned cold as he looked at the phone for a few seconds and instructed Terrance, "Turn it off."

"But..."

D

65%

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can't Thin

Seeing the displeased expression on Alaric's face and the name of the caller,

Terrance felt like he had guessed something right.

7/0

Is this Bane Morison Mr. Cadogan's rival in love?

Despite his hesitation, Terrance finally turned off the phone.

Bane had been trying to reach Victoria for a long time to no avail. After the calls were automatically disconnected, he dialed again, only to find that her phone was switched off.

A gloomy shade flickered in Bane's dark eyes. After a moment of contemplation, he parked the car by the roadside.

He made a phone call after thinking for a few seconds.

"I need to pick up the kids from school. Help me find out where she went, please. I hope you've already informed me of her location by the time I get the kids."

With that said, Bane hung up the phone and turned the car around towards the school.

As consciousness slowly returned. Victoria was overcome by a piercing pain in her chest that made her curl up instinctively although her eyes remained shut.

8/9

She only had one thought in her head while lying there—Griselda had passed away. She had considered that many things would happen in five years. Perhaps Alaric would remarry or have children, and everyone would move on with their new lives. She had prepared herself for everything and had thought it all through, and she would accept anything that would come her way.

But she had never imagined Griselda's passing.

This was the news she didn't want to hear the most, yet it had tragically become a reality.

Three years ago?

After lying quietly for a while, Victoria suddenly opened her eyes.

Alaric, who had been watching over her, felt his heart skip a beat at her unexpected awakening.

“You’re awake.”

Chapter 250 Potential to Be Someone Who Can’t Thin

Though Alaric tried to maintain a calm tone, his anxiety was visible on his face.

Victoria sat up with her eyes calmly fixed on him after meeting his gaze.

Alaric’s lips moved, but he couldn’t utter a single word.

“You...”

Victoria pursed her lips while gazing at him for a moment before asking, “When was it?”

The question spoke volumes, and the answer was already evident.

However, Alaric couldn’t bring himself to answer her.

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