

Departure with a Belly Chapter 431

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Chapter 431

“Nicole and Nathan asked if you would see them off,” Victoria whispered while leaning into Alaric’s arms.

Alaric hummed in response and replied, “I won’t be seeing them off.”

Hearing that, Victoria raised her head from his chest, looking at him with a puzzled gaze. “Why? You’ve already come to see me off, so why not see them off as well?”

Alaric bowed his head to give her a good, hard look and pecked her lips. “We can see each other when I return, but I hope that by then... I get to hear them calling me something else other than ‘Mr. Night.’”

Victoria bit her lips and did not give him a definite answer.

“Are you still unwilling to accept me?” He affectionately nudged her forehead with his and asked in his raspy voice, “You let me kiss you, yet you’re still unwilling to accept my feelings?”

At first, he was still somewhat jealous, feeling like he still needed to compete with Bane for Victoria’s favor, but after that kiss, he was no longer jealous. That was because he could sense her response and dependency. Now, all he needed to do was to get done with everything here and return home where they could live as a family.

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Seeming to have thought of something, Alaric smiled. "My parents will also be at the airport when you return. Can you let them meet the children?"

Victoria kept silent, and Alaric restrained his emotions after noticing her silence.

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"If you're not ready, you can ignore what I just said, and I won't tell my parents anything."

He knew what she was worried about. She was scared that someone might take away her children. Therefore, he would not do anything that would make her feel scared.

Surprised, Victoria thought she had yet to say anything, but he had already surrendered,

not daring to say anything, like he was afraid of offending her. That made her feel sad because he had never behaved so humbly before.

At that thought, she rebuked, "Have I said anything?"

"Huh?"

"I haven't said anything, and you're already this anxious to help me answer your question."

At the mention of that, Alaric could no longer be as calm and collected as when he was interacting with and kissing her. It was like he had turned into a completely different person.

"That's because I'm afraid you would reject me," he gently replied.

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Once he was finished, he remembered what she had said just now and asked, "According to what you've just said, does it mean you're willing to let my parents meet the children?"

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Victoria pursed her lips. Although she was reluctant to agree as it might make it seem like she had forgiven him, when she thought about how he was staying to settle those matters, and they might not meet each other for a long time, she thought she could agree to his request.

Thinking of that, Victoria nodded. "I'm willing to let them meet each other..."

"Really?" The room was pitch-black, but she felt like she could see his eyes and mood brightening up.

"Yes. Give me their contact number, and I'll call them once we get home."

Alaric chuckled. "Okay. I'll notify Terrance to give you their contact number."

Once the two finished their discussions, the room fell quiet again.

Then, they heard quick footsteps coming from outside.

"Hey, where did Mommy disappear to?"

The three had walked quite a distance away when they suddenly turned around and

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noticed Victoria did not follow them. Therefore, Terrance hurriedly brought the two

children back here but found only a small suitcase outside the door.

“This is mine, but there’s only a suitcase. Where’s Mommy?”

While the three of them were speaking, they arrived at the door, so their conversation passed through it and fell into Victoria’s ears.

Surprised, she looked at Alaric, whispering, “I need to head out, or else-”

Her words stopped abruptly when Alaric leaned in. His hot breath fell on her cheeks, and his aura enveloped her while he placed his lips beside hers. “Kiss me one more time.”

Then, without waiting for her to respond, he immediately kissed her.

“Hmm.” Victoria could not push him away in time and was caught in the kiss again, subconsciously letting out a muffled groan. However, she realized the others outside might hear her, so she quickly swallowed her groan and anxiously stopped Alaric by putting her hand on his chest.

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He’s too reckless. How can he do such a thing when the children and Terrance are just outside...

Since the children were outside, Victoria dared not struggle, afraid they might hear the sound, which might lead to an awkward situation.

“Mr. Levane, where’s Mommy?”

When Terrance heard that, he looked around. Being the attentive person he was, he

was guessing whether Bane's men had gotten to Victoria when he suddenly noticed the closed door before him. As if he suddenly thought of something, Terrance immediately got the gist of the situation and turned toward the children. "Your mommy probably forgot something and went back to retrieve it. Let's bring the suitcase to the car and wait for her outside."

But Nicole was not convinced. "What did Mommy leave behind? Should we go and help her?"

"No, that's not necessary. She would only be gone for a while. Come on. Let's wait outside."

While ushering them, he picked Nicole up and walked straight outside as though he was worried she might change her mind.

Meanwhile, inside the room, Victoria was still focused on whatever was happening outside while kissing Alaric, which meant she was not focused on the kiss. It wasn't until the people outside left that she felt relieved, and her body relaxed.

Then, she felt her waist pinched and suddenly regained focus to look at the person

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before her.

"Why are you always spacing out?"

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His complaint made Victoria blush. She pushed him and said, "I need to go." That must

have been enough kissing, right? He had kissed me twice, after all.

However, the man before her seemed reluctant to let her leave. He held her so tightly that she felt like her bones were about to break. "Stop it. Nicole and Nathan are waiting for me."

The man before her still did not respond and finally released her after a long while.

Once he did, he gently pinched her cheeks. "Off you go."

Then, he reached under her arms and toward her back to gently twist the doorknob, unlocking it with a click.

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"Go. Terrance will protect you."

"Okay..."

When the door opened, light from the hallway entered the room, and Victoria could finally see Alaric's handsome face. It was also then that she realized the dark circles under his eyes. It seemed like he hadn't rested well, which distressed her.

After taking two steps toward the door, she suddenly turned around and hugged Alaric's neck tightly. "I'll be waiting for you at home. You must return safely, and don't get yourself injured anymore."

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was an entirely different feeling when they flew here and when they were returning home, but both did not feel good. She was only thankful that both children were by her side when they came and left.

After Terrance received Alaric's text, he told the Cadogan couple about the twins before they boarded the plane. Once the couple found out, they were shocked and silent for a long while before replying, "We're heading home immediately. When will your flight arrive? We'll head over to pick you up."

Terrance then relayed the Cadogan couple's words to Victoria, making her feel slightly embarrassed. That was because it had been a long while since she last saw them, and she did not expect they would meet again five years later. Also, she was not sure how they were going to get along when they finally met again.

He could only guess her thoughts by looking at her expression as he had no idea what she was thinking about. When he saw that she seemed to dislike the idea, he carefully asked, "Miss Selwyn, Mr. Cadogan said that you could tell me if you have any worries or feel uncomfortable about this. We can stop this at any time."

That surprised Victoria, and she looked at Terrance inquisitively. "Can we stop at any time?"

Terrance nodded. "Yes."

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"Didn't you already tell them?" It would be alright to stop before Terrance told the
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couple, but now that they had found out about the children, why should she stop them from meeting their grandchildren? Wouldn't that disappoint them?

"I did." Terrance nodded again. "But Mr. Cadogan said that your feelings are my priority.

If you're worried or uncomfortable with this, you can stop it anytime you want. You don't have to worry about what will happen next because I will take care of it."

Victoria did not expect what Alaric said was true. That realization made her curve her red lips into a smile. "I'm not uncomfortable with anything. It's just that the last time I saw them was five years ago. I don't know how to face or get along with them now."

As Terrance did not expect that answer, he was happy for Alaric and quickly reassured her, "Don't worry, Miss Selwyn. When I first contacted Mrs. Cadogan, she seemed very concerned for you and asked a lot of questions about you."

"Really?"

She left without saying anything back then, and Griselda... passed away soon after that.

Victoria did not even get to see Griselda for the last time. At first, she thought she would never see the Cadogans again, but she did not expect to see them again after all this. Besides, the two children still had no idea about this matter, so she decided to tell them the truth after a brief moment of contemplation.

"Nicole, Nathan, someone will be picking us up at the airport when we arrive.

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When the two children heard that, they immediately looked over. "Mommy, who will be coming to fetch us?"

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"Uhm... To be more precise, they're your grandparents." Victoria thought about it and told the children the truth.

"Our grandparents?"

"Yes." She held their small hands and gently asked, "Don't you want Mr. Night to be your

daddy?"

Nicole immediately perked up. "Mommy, does this mean you agree to let Mr. Night be

our daddy?”

Meanwhile, Nathan was shocked because his mother obviously had not agreed to that before boarding the plane, and he did not expect her to change ideas after getting on the plane. Did something happen without him knowing?

Victoria nodded. “Yes. Are you glad? Didn’t you say you wanted him to be your father?”

“Yes, I am.” Nicole happily threw herself into her mother’s arms. Unfortunately, they were on a plane, and both had their seatbelts on, so she could not get on her mother’s lap.

Therefore, Victoria could only let Nicole hold her hand to show how delighted she was.

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“Mommy, does Mr. Night know about this?”

Does he know about this? Victoria smiled gently. He will know once he returns home.

“He will find out later.”

“Then, are Grandpa and Grandma nice? Are they Mr. Night’s parents?”

“Yes, they are. They’re warm–hearted and easy to get along with, so don’t worry. Also, they’re...” Victoria hesitated momentarily before continuing, “They’re your biological grandparents.”

When Nicole heard that, her eyes instantly widened in shock. “Our biological grandparents?”

“Yes.”

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Victoria looked at Nathan while patting her daughter’s head. “Can you understand what I’m saying? Mr. Night is your biological father.”

Nathan quickly nodded his head to indicate he understood.

On the other hand, Nicole pondered for a long while. Then, as if she suddenly realized something, her eyes widened. "But Mommy, didn't you say... our father is dead?"

Victoria fell silent, while Terrance, who was eavesdropping, was at a loss too. Now
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that's embarrassing. How did things turn out like this?

Meanwhile, she felt embarrassed too. It would be less embarrassing if Terrance weren't here because she could explain the truth to the children, but with Terrance here, she...

How did she know she would reconcile with Alaric after five years? She never thought of such a possibility, so she just made an excuse according to her feelings back then.

So, Victoria simply smiled and explained, "Well, he came back to life.

He was rendered utterly speechless and felt his lips twitch as he swallowed his laughter. If he weren't afraid of offending Victoria, he would have said, "Miss Selwyn, can you make up an even more outrageous excuse?"

She first said Alaric was dead, but now she said he had returned from the dead. Her words had clearly rendered the two children dumbfounded.

Victoria burst out laughing and tapped their noses when she caught sight of her children's utterly baffled expressions. "I was just kidding. Don't tell me you believed that?"

Nicole clutched her chest after hearing that. "You almost scared me to death."

"Alright. Remember to be polite and address your elders once we get off the plane. Understand?"

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"I understand, Mommy."

“Yes, Mommy.”

The two children answered in unison, making them look adorable. The two also understood that since she changed the topic, it meant she did not want to talk about the previous topic anymore.

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At that moment, Victoria could not help but remember what happened in the past. The children were young back then and did not realize anything, but when they gradually got to know their neighbors and made new friends, they gradually understood their situation.

One day, the two children came home and tugged on her dress, asking, “Mommy, Mommy, why do the other children have a father while we don’t?”

Since Victoria was still feeling devastated and thought she would never see Alaric again, she replied, “Because he’s dead.”

Although she knew that might scare the children, she had to stop them from thinking about it, so she gave them a resolute answer. Who would have thought reality would prove her wrong? Therefore, she had no choice but to cover up her lies with... more lies

apparently.

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After they descended the plane, Terrance helped them grab their suitcases, while Victoria only had to bring her children. Perhaps they were afraid she might get kidnapped again, which was why several tall, muscled bodyguards stood close to her. Those bodyguards stood on every side of her, and from an outsider’s perspective, she and the two children seemed well protected. If someone were to try anything, they would definitely fail.

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Meanwhile, Terrance followed behind them with the suitcases. When he saw they were about to reach the entrance, he reminded Victoria, "Miss Selwyn, Mr. and Mrs. Cadogan will be waiting at the entrance. We'll see them soon."

Victoria nodded upon hearing that reminder. "Okay."

Then, she leaned down to face her children, coaxing them, "Nicole, Nathan, did you hear that? You're going to meet your grandparents soon. Remember what I said to you on the plane?"

"Of course!"

"Don't worry, Mommy. Nathan and I will be very polite." The two children gave her their promise.

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Then, they soon arrived at the entrance under the protection of the bodyguards.

Meanwhile, at the airport entrance, Mary pulled out a small mirror and kept looking at her reflection but still felt dissatisfied. So, she turned to ask her husband, "Honey, look at my makeup. Is it too cakey? Is this the right makeup for meeting children?"

Adrian glanced at her and replied, "It's fine. The children will love it."

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Mary thought of asking for his opinion, but she instantly thought he was unreliable once she heard what he said. "Do you even hear yourself? What do you mean when you

say the children will love it? You make it sound like you know what they're thinking."

Adrian sighed in resignation. "Yes, I don't understand children's thoughts, but you don't either, so what's there to worry about?"

That's right. Children have different tastes than grownups, and they probably don't know whether my makeup is too heavy. All they know is that I'm their grandmother.

What's there to be worried about? It's nothing.

Mary released a sigh of relief when she thought of that and felt more relaxed but soon became nervous again. She kept away her mirror and spoke to Adrian, "I'd say Victoria is full of surprises. She ran away for five years and secretly gave birth to two children."

When Adrian heard her bringing this up, he looked at her and asked, "What are you trying to say?"

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"What am I trying to say? It's all your son's fault. He has definitely done something wrong. Otherwise, why else would Victoria leave and raise her children abroad? That brat. Sob. It's such a pity that my two grandchildren... They're definitely lonely without their father and grandparents with them all these years. Once we see them, I will definitely try my best to make up for the years we missed."

Mary wiped away the tears at the corner of her eye as she spoke.

Adrian watched her exaggerated act with affection in his eyes and smiled, cooing gently, "All right. You should save it for when you see them."

When Mary heard that, she angrily turned to look at him. "What are you calling exaggerated? I'm being serious, alright? Don't you miss your two grandbabies? Don't you feel heartbroken for what they experienced?"

Adrian fell silent.

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"I'm telling you. I'm going to get back at that brat about this matter, and you aren't

allowed to stop me.”

“When have I ever stopped you? Haven’t you been in charge of this family since you married me?”

Mary gave it a thought and figured that his words held merit. Hence, she pouted her lips, not saying anything else.

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Ever since Victoria divorced Alaric and left, Mary had changed drastically. With

Griselda’s passing, Mary’s personality was not as gentle as before, and she became less forgiving toward her son.

That was because she felt that her son had something to do with Victoria’s departure. They were both women, after all. In a situation where both were married, a woman’s departure meant that her husband had done something wrong.

One possibility was that the woman had found a new relationship, but Mary was there for all of Victoria’s milestones. So, she knew exactly what kind of personality that child had.

From Mary’s perspective, Victoria would never do something that would hurt her marriage, so the only possibility was that her son had done something wrong. Since it was her son’s fault, she, as his mother, was also at fault because she failed to educate him.

Therefore, for a long time after Victoria left, Mary would feel frustrated every time she thought about that, and whenever she felt frustrated, she would call and nag at Alaric. Back then, Alaric was not in a good mood either and would hang up before she could nag more than a few sentences.

He would hang up every single time she called.

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Afterward, Mary found out Alaric had started drowning his sorrows in alcohol and started feeling distressed for her son. Nevertheless, she still could not help but place the blame on his feet. He deserves this. He did not cherish her when she was around, so what's the use of regretting it now? Let him deal with his suffering.

Although that was what she said, she was still secretly heartbroken for her son.

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A few years later, Mary gradually forgot about Victoria. Although she was reluctant to do so, Victoria had disappeared without a trace and did not even appear when Griselda passed away. It seemed like they would never see each other again.

Mary gave up on her search. Then, Claudia appeared and kept Alaric company, so Mary decided to let her son start a new relationship with Claudia. Alas, she did not expect her son would stay so true to his feelings for Victoria and would not develop feelings for Claudia, no matter how long she stayed with him.

Mary had entirely changed her attitude toward Claudia after what had happened recently. Who would have guessed a nice woman like her could be so shrewd to steal someone else's credit for several years?

She made the Cadogans mistake her as Alaric's savior and even used that so-called "saving grace" to threaten Alaric into marrying her. Just thinking about that made Mary feel chills run down her spine.

Being where they were now, the members of the Cadogan Family had seen all sorts of

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people, but it was the first time Mary had seen someone with such cunning at such a

young age.

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Whenever she remembered that Victoria was the Cadogan Family's savior and that she raised her children all alone abroad, she would feel her heart clench in heartache. Oh, my pitiful Victoria. She lost her mother at a young age and suffered many hardships. With that thought in mind, Mary reminded Adrian, "Once we meet them, I won't only compensate my grandbabies, but I will also be nicer to Victoria."

Once she said that, her eyes suddenly lit up as she waved in a particular direction and hurried over. "Victoria!"

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Mary could see Victoria and two kids—a girl and a boy at her sides. Both of them looked very similar, and clearly, they were twins. Earlier, she was beyond shocked when Terrance called her, "Kids? Are they Alaric's children?"

"Yes, Mrs. Cadogan."

"What? Victoria has kids with Alaric? How old are they?"

After Terrance told her that the children were already five years old, and a pair of twins at that, she almost cried tears of joy. In the past, Alaric appeared uninterested in anyone, and Victoria didn't want to be in contact with them anymore. So, she reckoned that she wouldn't have the chance to be a grandmother because Alaric would never find himself another partner and she needed a lot of time to take this all in.

Finally, she convinced herself that it was not a big deal not to have grandchildren. Her son was still alive, and she shouldn't worry whether he would ever have children of his own. Since Alaric wasn't bothered by this, all the less reason for her to be. Yet, she didn't expect a surprise to come knocking on her door so quickly. While she was still

distressed that she didn't have any grandchildren, she suddenly ended up with two. Although they were still quite a distance away, she could clearly see that the children had delicate, sculptured features and were especially attention-catching while they walked on the streets. More importantly, those little faces looked especially similar to Alaric's.

Before she came, the servant at home overheard her phone call and couldn't help but ask before she left the house, "Mrs. Cadogan, Miss Selwyn has already left for five years, right? How could she have Mr. Alaric's children? Could this be a trap? Are the children really to Mr. Alaric's?"

Although Mary hadn't met the children yet, her face darkened when she heard the servant disparaging Victoria like that. "You're paid to do your job here, not gossip," she scoffed.

The servant jumped from her sudden outburst and curled into herself. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Cadogan. I shouldn't have shot my mouth off, but... I'm just saying this because I'm worried that Mr. Alaric is getting scammed. I don't mean anything by it."

"Do you think you're smarter than Alaric? Don't you think he'd know if he's scammed? You're in no position to question this." The servant fell silent, not daring to say another word. "If I hear anything like this again, all of you will be fired!"

She had no doubts because she believed in Alaric's judgment. Furthermore, Victoria had saved her family, and she thought that even if the children were not Alaric's, they had mistreated her so dreadfully in the past that they should help her to raise her children as a way of repaying her.

Nevertheless, there wasn't a shard of suspicion in her heart when she saw the tiny faces that resembled Alaric. They are definitely Alaric's children. Who else could their

father be when they looked so much like him?

She was so delighted that she felt her heart racing as they got closer. I'm going to be a grandmother! In the past, she was envious when she saw others boasting about their grandchildren, and it was finally her turn now. Her plastic friends within the wealthy class would always show off their grandchildren in front of her and even asked her questions about Alaric. Such as, why didn't he have children after being married for so long? Was Victoria unfit to have babies? Sometimes, they'd recommended doctors from abroad and suggested she bring Victoria for treatment.

Although Mary had retorted sarcastically at that time, she was still fuming after returning home when she recalled their gleeful, arrogant faces. Regardless, she had never rushed Alaric and Victoria, who were still married to each other, because she respected their decisions and thought that elders shouldn't interfere in their children's relationships.

When she was young, getting pregnant with Alaric was far from planned. Initially, she wanted to spend more time alone with her husband. Besides, Griselda didn't pressure them, either. Hence, she lived a loving, blissful life with Adrian until she accidentally got pregnant one day.

Since that was her own experience, she didn't intend to rush Victoria and Alaric. Yet, they got a divorce and Victoria even left the country. After that, more people flaunted

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their grandchildren in front of her, but she couldn't be bothered to snap back at them and merely smiled in reply. Nonetheless, she canceled the collaboration with the two companies after returning home, scaring the other parties so terribly that they came to

her house that very same night to plead with her. They admitted that it was their fault and begged the Cadogan Family to let them off the hook.

For a few years after that, all was peaceful, and she didn't carry any hope for grandchildren. But now... They're close, she thought in excitement as she watched them getting closer and couldn't help but crouch down.

Victoria already caught sight of Mary and Adrian from a distance. It had been years since she last saw Mary, but she barely changed, still looking as beautiful as she always did. She even flashed them a bright smile from afar. Then, she crouched down in front of her children and opened her arms wide.

"Kids, they're your grandparents," Victoria said softly.

She already spoke about this with the kids on the plane earlier, so they greeted Mary and Adrian after she pointed them out.

"How are you, Grandpa and Grandma?"

As the kids were still unfamiliar with them, they appeared a little wary when they looked at them. Mary didn't take it to heart and even had tears in her eyes when the kids addressed her as 'Grandma'.

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"I'm fine, children," she answered and pulled them into her arms in excitement.

Adrian was calmer in comparison to Mary's enthusiasm, but when he saw the scene while standing next to her, he couldn't hide his excitement anymore and slowly crouched down in front of the children.

Meanwhile, Victoria watched as the elders turned into curious babies in front of the children, bombarding them with various questions.

"What's your name? How old are you? Are you going to school? What is your favorite

food and..."

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They asked all sorts of questions about their daily lives until Victoria interjected, "Let's..."

get up, okay? Aren't you tired after crouching down for so long?"

After she said that, only then did Mary and Adrian realize what they were doing, but they mentioned nothing about themselves and said instead, "Yes, you're probably tired after such a long flight. Let's go home quickly and get the chef to prepare some delicious food for you before you take a nice, hot bath and rest."

"Okay." Just when Victoria wanted to hold the children's hands, Adrian and Mary each picked up a child and walked away. She stared at them in utter bewilderment as she thought, Okay, looks like they're friendlier than I'm expecting.

She was reassured to see that the Cadogan couple adored the children. After all, she

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had left for so many years and thought that they would become distant.

"Miss Selwyn, come on. Let's go."

She snapped back to her senses when she heard Terrance's voice and nodded. "Okay."

Then, they all left together.

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Needless to say, Mary was especially kind to Victoria when they got back home. Mary tried to speak to her, but every time, the words would get stuck in her throat as she held

Victoria's hand. Forget Mary, even Victoria didn't know where to begin or how she should address the other party.

Although the kids were addressing Adrian and Mary as their grandparents, Victoria couldn't bring herself to regard Mary as her mother. After all, it had been five years, which was a very long time.

Perhaps it was the look in her eyes, or through the look on her face, Mary could read what was on her mind and tucked her hair behind her ear softly, saying gently, "My child, it has been tough on you over the years."

Just one sentence from Mary was enough for tears to well up in Victoria's eyes. She had imagined what Mary would say, but the last thing she would expect was this, and it made her so sad, unable to talk about all the grievances she had in her heart.

The intimacy resembling kinship was something she had never experienced, and she had always wanted a female role model in her life.

Mary felt heartbroken when she saw the tears in Victoria's eyes and reached out to pinch her cheek. "Don't be sad, my child. Everything is going to be okay now that you're

back. Alaric had brought you such pain in the past, but from now on, I'll love you like

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your mother."

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Mother? Everything Victoria saw turned into a blur, and she couldn't see Mary's expression at all. All she could make up was an affectionate face. When she heard the way Mary addressed herself, she was a little puzzled. Then... Can I call her my mother from now onward? At the thought of this, she bit her lower lip and said meekly, "I thought that... you might not want to acknowledge me anymore after five years."

"Silly child, that's impossible. I've always liked you since you were a child, and you know

that. Back then... When you left, I blamed myself for quite a while. As your mother, I didn't notice the problems you had in the relationship, nor did I extend a helping hand to solve them in time. That's my mistake."

"No." Victoria shook her head. Her eyes were already filled with tears, which came rolling down like pearls when she shook her head and glistened brightly against her fair skin. "You have nothing to do with this. There were problems between me and Alaric which led to misunderstandings, but we were the ones at fault. Not you. Never you."

"It's not your fault. It's him." Mary was terribly biased toward Victoria and always spoke up for her. "He should protect his wife and children as the man of the family, but he didn't, and neither did he protect his marriage. Instead, his actions cost him his wife and his children! That was a huge mistake on his part."

A--startled Victoria didn't expect her to be so harsh toward Alaric. "Mom..."

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"Yes?"

When Victoria heard Mary responding, she was first stunned because the word had slipped out of her mouth unwittingly, and the last thing she expected was an answer from Mary.

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"Call me that in the future. Since you have returned, don't leave again. If that brat, Alaric

treats you badly, let me know. I'll take care of him for you and teach him a lesson that he

won't soon forget. Or, I could tell you ways to take him in hand."

"Really?" Although tears were still rolling down Victoria's cheeks, her mood became brighter after such a short conversation. "Will you be on my side?"

“Of course, I will. If you don’t believe me, I’ll lecture him severely once he’s back from abroad.”

When Victoria recalled that Alaric was abroad and injured, the smile on her face fell a little.

“Alright, we don’t need to think about anything else. You’re probably hungry after such a long flight and food is almost ready. Don’t think about anything else later and just enjoy the meal. As for the rest... Well, we can speak about it tomorrow.”

The dinner was amazing as it was all the dishes that she was familiar with, a completely different flavor from the food abroad. More importantly, there was something familiar with the taste.

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She turned to Adrian and Mary. Although they already talked things out, it had been years since they last met, so she wasn’t confident and sounded a little shy and hesitant when she spoke, “Dad, Mom, didn’t you guys get a new chef all these years?”

Mary looked at her with tenderness in her eyes. “We’ve been having the same chef the whole time. After all, he’s been working here for so many years and we’re used to his cooking. What is it? Did you notice the taste right away?”

“Yes, it’s a familiar taste.”

The food was familiar, and the furnishings of the house remained almost the same as it was five years ago. If there was anything different, it was the addition of two kids at the dining table. Right now, the little ones were seated between Adrian and Mary, who started serving more food on Nicole and Nathan’s plates after answering Victoria.

“Here, Nicole. You like this, don’t you? Take some more. And this is for you, Nathan.”

Basically, Victoria didn't need to hover over them anymore and only needed to take care of herself. After dinner, Mary said to her, "The room is the same one that you used to share with Alaric. The servants clean it every day and the sheets have been changed, so you can just move in right away."

"Okay."

Chapter 435 Moving to Jasea

"By the way, there's something I would like to discuss with you." She gazed at Victoria with a look of embarrassment and seemed to be hesitating whether she should bring this up.

Victoria naturally noticed her hesitance. So, she took the initiative and asked, "What's the matter, Mom?"

"Well, you're probably all tuckered out. Tonight, why don't you... let Nicole and Nathan sleep in our room? Of course, I'm asking for your opinion about this. If you aren't okay with it..."

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Victoria felt so bad to see her acting like this. They have done nothing wrong but are acting so cautiously with me, she thought and took a few steps forward, saying softly, "Mom, if you're not worried that they'll bother you, then of course, you can accompany them tonight."

"No! They won't be! Of course, they're not a bother. I'm more than happy to take them. I f

you're okay with it, we can help you babysit them often after this. That's right, are they going to school yet? Which school are they attending?"

Then, Victoria briefly told her about Jasea. At first, she thought that Mary would ask her

to transfer the children to Gandra for convenience's sake. To her surprise, she simply said, "Since they're attending school in Jasea, we'll move over there tomorrow."