

Departure with a Belly Chapter 131

Departure with a Belly Chapter 131

Chapter 131

When Claudia saw Alaric, she was startled. Then, it turned to excitement as she got off the bed and approached him. “Why are you here all of a sudden, Al? How’s Grandma doing? Was the surgery successful?”

However, she realized he had a cold expression when she stood before him. In that split second, she thought about what Elaine and Christopher had done. Although she felt guilty about it, she didn’t dare show it on her face. She needed to calm down and prevent Alaric from sensing something wrong.

“Grandma is fine. What about you?” Alaric asked coldly.

“What?” Claudia’s heart skipped a beat, wondering if she had heard him wrong. Did he just ask about me?

While she was in thought, Alaric spoke up. “Where are your friends?” He scanned the whole room. “Do you know where they went?”

“I’m not sure.” Claudia shook her head and bit her lips. “They must have gone out to look for me when I was gone.”

1/7

12:28 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 131 That Doesn't Mean You Can Lie to Me

"Is that so?"

She didn't know what he was implying. Just as she thought she was being exposed, Alaric said nothing more and was quiet. However, his gaze made her shiver in fear.

2/7

This was the first time she felt like Alaric was a stranger. He was eyeing her with those wary eyes.

No, how can this happen? thought Claudia. She felt as if her heart had broken into pieces. She couldn't stand the way Alaric looked at her and asked softly, "What's up with you? Did something happen? I'm sorry. Are you mad because I snuck out to see Grandma?" As she spoke, she reached out and gently tugged on the hem of his shirt. "Please don't be mad at me, Al."

Alaric lowered his eyes and looked at her hands. Then, he slowly pried them off.

Claudia staggered and almost fell when Alaric pulled her hands away.

"I'll ask you again. Are you sure you don't know where they are?"

Chapter **131** That Doesn't Mean You Can Lie to Me

"Yes. I assure you that I have no clue." Claudia shook her head. "Is there

anything you want from them, Al? Did they do something to upset you again? If that's the case, I'll give them a call and scold them, *okay*? Don't be angry."

If it were any other day, Alaric would find Claudia pitiful and think of himself as unreasonable for saying such a thing. However, it was different this time as they had crossed the line and hurt Victoria.

"Yes, they've upset me. If you want to scold them, do it now." He smirked coldly.

Claudia was baffled by his words, for she never expected him to be so straightforward. Then, she fell silent for a moment before asking, "Who... Whom should I call?"

Mockery flashed across Alaric's eyes as he spoke. "What do you think?"

"I don't understand what you are talking about." Claudia's face was pale.

Although she was nervous about his interrogations, she was also excited at the same time.

With Alaric being angry and having his suspicions about me, that could

377

ri, 23

Chapter 131 That Doesn't Mean You Can Lie to Me

only mean one thing—Victoria must have lost the child! It doesn't matter if

Alaric *feels* sorry or sad toward Victoria because of the unborn baby; the threat is gone. Plus, it won't make sense for him not to divorce her just because of a miscarriage.

As she thought about this, she felt it was the right move to take the risk.

Elaine was normally a bad-tempered person. To put it bluntly, she was dumb and had no sense of right and wrong. Thus, she was the perfect candidate for Claudia to use as a tool. That was why Claudia had allowed Elaine to stay by her side. Never did she expect that Elaine would indeed be of help. On the other hand, since Christopher loved her, she felt it would be fine for him to suffer slightly for her.

"Don't you understand?" Coldness filled Alaric's eyes. He gripped her chin with his cold fingers and said, "I've always trusted you because you saved my life, Claudia. That is why I treat you with respect. However, that doesn't mean you can lie to me."

As he spoke, he tightened his grip, and Claudia could feel the pain coming from her chin. In that split second, besides his cold fingers, she could sense an intimidating aura coming off him.

4/7

12 29

Chapter **131** That Doesn't Mean You Can Lie to Me

This was the first time this had happened, and Claudia couldn't believe that Alaric would treat her like this. Hasn't he always trusted me? Why did things become like this?

As she thought about it, she felt a pang in her chest, and tears rolled down her eyes. In just mere seconds, Claudia was a crying mess.

"I don't understand what you're talking about, Al. When did I ever lie to you? If it's because I didn't get your permission before sneaking out to see Grandma, I have already apologized. Moreover, I didn't tell anyone about my whereabouts since I didn't want anyone to know. I was planning to return after taking a look. Is that too much to ask for? I don't understand what I've done wrong, Alaric..." Claudia bit her lips and sobbed.

Looking at her reaction, Alaric frowned and wondered if he had wrongly accused her.

Then, he released her and relayed what Elaine and Christopher did.

Initially, Claudia was upset because Alaric had accused her of lying.

However, when she heard his words, she was stunned. After some time, her eyes widened. She quickly wiped her tears away and grabbed his arm.

5/7

12:29 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 131 That Doesn't Mean You Can Lie to Me

“I’m sorry. I didn’t know about this. How’s Victoria? Is she alright?” As she spoke, she released his arm and was going to walk out of the room bare feet. “I’m going to check on her.”

“Wait.”

Before she was able to leave, Alaric called out to her. Thus, she stopped in her tracks and looked at him. “Sorry, I might be too anxious. I’m just worried about Victoria. I didn’t expect such a thing to happen. Let’s go and check on her, Al.”

Hearing her words, Alaric had a grim expression since he recalled that Bane was taking care of her.

“It’s fine. Someone is taking care of her. She’s now resting in the hospital.”

“That’s great. How is she, though? Did she get hurt?” I’m sorry about what happened. I didn’t think Elaine and Christopher would have done such a thing,” said Claudia.

As she spoke, Alaric stared at her intently, trying not to miss out on any details of her expression. After she was done speaking, he said in a low voice, “She is fine. However, she’ll need a check–up to know more about

6/7

Chapter 131 That Doesn’t Mean You Can Lie to Me

her condition.”

At that moment, Claudia seemed to freeze. “Hasn’t she gone through a check–up yet?”

777

Chapter 132 You Don’t Trust Me

Chapter 132

What does he mean by that? Hasn’t Victoria done a check–up yet? Does that mean she’s fine? After all, the only way she doesn’t need to do a check–up is because she isn’t in a severe situation. This isn’t right. After all, she would have lost a lot of blood if the baby was gone.

As she thought about it, Alaric’s voice snapped her back to her senses.

“She has already done a check–up.”

At that moment, she felt shivers crawling up her spine.

She’s already gone through a check–up, yet nothing is wrong with her. In other words, Alaric probably knows that she is pregnant. If that’s the case, does he know I deleted the message? If he knows about it, then... As Claudia thought about it, she trembled in fear.

In the meantime, Alaric **did** not miss any slight expression on her face. He narrowed his eyes when he saw that Claudia’s expression had changed after he mentioned the check–up.

“What’s wrong? Are you worried because she has not done a check–up?”

1/6

12.29 Fri

Chapter 132 You Don’t Trust Me

Claudia returned to her senses and forced a smile on her face. “Of course!

I'm certainly worried about her. After all, Elaine and Christopher did such a horrible thing to her. Since Elaine is my close friend, I'm also responsible for this."

2/6

No, I have to stay calm. Although Victoria has already done a check-up, that doesn't mean they've found out about her pregnancy. At the very least, I need to keep calm before Alaric clarifies things between us, she thought.

"You are responsible for this. I'm pretty sure I warned you before not to let her come again, right?"

Hearing his words, Claudia didn't say anything.

"Have you forgotten?" asked Alaric.

Sh*t. Claudia hadn't thought much about this. She knew that Elaine had offended Alaric, and that was why she told Elaine to stay out of Alaric's sight whenever he was around. However, since Alaric hadn't been at the hospital for the past few days, she allowed Elaine to come and go as she wished. After all, she still needed the latter's help.

12:29 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 132 You Don't Trust Me

"Al, I'm sorry... I didn't forget it. It's just that we have been friends for such a long time, and she insisted on visiting me because of my injury. I can't say no to her, can I? Plus, I thought she only argued with Victoria because of her bad temper. I didn't know she would kidnap her. Don't worry. Now that I know what a terrible person she is, I won't stay in contact with her

anymore.”

After Claudia said many things to prove her loyalty, she realized that Alaric was still looking at her with the same cold eyes. At that moment, her heart dropped.

“Why are you looking at me like that, Al? Do you not trust me?”

Alaric pursed his lips and said nothing.

While looking into his eyes, Claudia put on a mocking smile and said, “I see. You don’t trust me at all.”

Only then did Alaric say, “If anyone wants to hurt Victoria, they have to do it when I’m not around. When the incident happened, you went missing.

That was why I was forced to leave her side to look for you. The timestamp between your disappearance and the incident matches, Claudia. I’ve told

3/6

Chapter 132 You Don’t Trust Me

you before that I trust you because you saved my life. Thus, you’d better admit it if you’re the one behind this.”

4/6

“What should I admit to?” Claudia smiled bitterly. “Should I admit the things that I did not do? You said that I was the one who made you leave her, but weren’t your parents by her side back then? Do you think I’m able to predict when they’d leave her side too?” As she spoke, tears started to fall again. “You just don’t believe me. You think that my disappearance wasn’t a coincidence, yet... I didn’t mean to leave at that time. It was because of Grandma’s surgery! I just wanted to check up on her!”

“Yeah, it was during Grandma’s surgery, and you knew it as well. That’s why you used the opportunity to cover up your tracks,” Alaric replied calmly.

At that moment, Claudia’s face went pale, and she staggered. “I see... You have already convicted me long ago. You never trust me. Why don’t you believe me, Al? Is it because I deliberately hurt myself to save my reputation? Is that why you think I’m a vicious woman?”

Hearing her words, Alaric squinted his eyes and said, “So you finally admit that you hurt yourself intentionally, huh?”

12:29 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 132 You Don’t Trust Me

Claudia trembled and replied, “I admitted it the last time, didn’t I? I will admit the things I did, but why should I also take the blame for things that I didn’t do? We have known each other for a long time. I hurt myself instead of others to protect my reputation. Moreover, I even risked my life to save you. Victoria is your friend, and she has a fake marriage with you to put Grandma at ease. I’m grateful for what she’s done, so why would I ever hurt her?”

5/6

Alaric’s determination swayed at her words. After all, Claudia had indeed risked her life to save him. If things went downhill, she might’ve even drowned in the river. Thus, she wouldn’t have saved him if she had been vicious and selfish. No matter what, Claudia saving him would forever be a soft spot for Alaric. He couldn’t force himself to accuse her after she had

mentioned it.

Thinking about this, he took out a handkerchief and gave it to her. “I’m sorry. I was *worked up*.”

Claudia stood there without moving as her tears continued to fall.

Technically speaking, if he had realized his mistakes, he would have helped me wipe my tears away when he saw that I was a crying mess.

Yet, he... Is he starting to get impatient with me? After all, he is unwilling to

29 Fri,

@57%

Chapter 132 You Don’t Trust Me

make such a small gesture. Instead, he just handed me his handkerchief.

Does that mean he still doesn’t trust me?

As Claudia thought about it, she was upset. Initially, she would mention saving him in the past when he had doubts about her, and he would become soft–hearted. She was right; whenever she brought this up, Alaric wouldn’t hold onto the matter anymore.

Nonetheless, Victoria was still pregnant. Thus, not only did her plan fail, but she also wasted a favor. Although Claudia knew she could bring it up no matter what, Alaric might soon be tired of hearing it.

Claudia couldn’t help but feel scared. After thinking it through, she didn’t dare throw a tantrum and took Alaric’s handkerchief to wipe her tears.

Then, she said softly, “Al, I don’t care what the others say about me trying to hurt Victoria. However, if you are on their side too...” She lowered her eyes and looked devastated. “Plus, my face is ruined. If you don’t believe

me, I don't know what's the point of living anymore."

6/6

12-29 Fri,

Chapter **1331** Make It Happen Soon

Chapter 133

"Let me go. I am not his accomplice. He was the one who planned everything out. You guys have gotten the wrong person!" At the police station, Elaine screamed as she tried to struggle out of the restraint. Hours had passed since Elaine had been captured. Initially, she thought the police would let her go after investigating the incident. However, she never expected that she wouldn't have the chance to leave as soon as she entered the police station. Moreover, Christopher looked defeated, seemingly as if he was done fighting back. Furthermore, he even admitted that he and Elaine were accomplices.

"I'll ask you again. Did you plan this kidnapping with Elaine Sutcliffe?"

"Yes." Christopher nodded.

"Is there anyone else aside from her?"

When Elaine heard the police's words, she subconsciously thought about Claudia. However, before she could react and say anything, Christopher denied it. "No. It's just the two of us."

1/7

12:29 Fri, 23 Ju

Chapter **133** II Make It Happen Soon.

Elaine looked at him in disbelief.

At that moment, a glint flashed across the interrogator's eyes when he noticed her reaction. Then, he looked at her and asked, "Is he telling the truth, Miss Sutcliffe? Were you two the only ones who planned this kidnapping?"

"No, he is lying! He did everything. It has nothing to do with me," Elaine quickly explained.

The police noticed that she was worked up. Since they couldn't get anything out of them, they could only separate the duo and investigate them individually.

Soon, they were taken away.

Before Elaine left, she continued shouting, "I want to see Claudia. She is my friend. She can prove my innocence. Christopher was the one who planned this. We all heard it when he said he would get revenge on Victoria!"

Hearing her words, the police got new information and quickly investigated it.

2/7

Chapter 133111 Make It Happen Soon

In the meantime, Victoria was sleeping in the ward. Although she was being treated, she felt tense the entire day. Thus, as soon as she relaxed her mind, she fell into a deep sleep. Beside her, Bane looked at her with soft eyes. After some time, he bent down and tucked the bedsheets for her before calling the nurse. When the nurse removed the needle, Bane stood beside her. After the nurse was done, he even warmed Victoria's

hands before putting them back under the sheets.

Seeing that Bane was tall and handsome, the nurse recalled that many of her colleagues were discussing him when he came. They said that Bane had carried a beautiful woman bridal-style into the hospital. The girl had long hair and looked gorgeous. It was like a scene from a romance movie. Thus, many people were secretly looking at him. More importantly, another handsome man came over as well.

3/7

One of the men was soft and gentle, while the other was cold and alluring. They were both good-looking. Plus, according to an insider, the duo came from the riches. At that moment, many people were envious.

Thinking about this, the nurse took another glance at Bane and said, "You

12 29 Fn, 23 Jun

Chapter 133 1 Make It Happen Spon

treat your girlfriend well, sir."

Bane paused his actions when he heard her words. After some time, he smiled and looked at the nurse. "Although she isn't my girlfriend yet, I'm grateful for what you said. I will try to make her mine as soon as possible."

In that split second, the nurse was envious of Victoria after hearing such charismatic words.

I see... They are not a couple, but he still treats her with love. Plus, his voice is so soft when he explained it to me. He even thanked me! How in the world does such a gentle person exist?

Just as the nurse was in a daze, someone opened the door. Alaric entered

the room with a cold aura, and his expression was as cold as ice.

As soon as he entered the room, he immediately looked at Victoria. Then, he scanned his surroundings before landing his gaze on Bane. After some time, he said coldly, "I'm here to take her home."

Home? The nurse was surprised when she heard that. She wondered if Alaric was Victoria's boyfriend since he put it that way.

Chapter 133 11 Make It Happen Soon

On the other hand, Bane didn't seem to be affected by Alaric's words. He was still as gentle as before. "You can take her home, but she needs to rest first."

Hearing his words, Alaric had a grim expression. Before he entered the room, he had overheard Bane's words. In that split second, he felt the urge to take Victoria home immediately. However, he knew that it would affect Victoria if he did so. Still, he didn't want to leave her alone with Bane.

Everything would be fine if she slept until he came. However, he couldn't imagine what would have happened if she woke up mid-way and heard the nonsense Bane said.

Alaric didn't think any further and took a chair. He placed it on the other side of the bed and sat down, facing Bane. He would not leave when Bane was trying to get his hands on Victoria.

Thus, the duo sat across from each other. The nurse didn't expect to see such a scene and was thrilled. She would have stayed to see what would happen if it weren't for work. Unfortunately, she had work to do and needed to leave.

After telling them about the procedures, the nurse left. With the three of

5/7

12:29 Fri, 23 Jun.

57%

Chapter 133 I'll Make It Happen Soon

them inside the room, it was quiet. While the men looked at each other with hostility, Victoria slept soundly, unaffected by the outside world.

6/7

After some time, Bane suddenly smiled at Alaric and asked softly, "Did you find out anything?"

Alaric knew what he was talking about. He pursed his lips and said unhappily, "This has nothing to do with her."

Bane wasn't surprised and smiled. "It looks like love can blind a person's mind and senses. Don't you think so, Al?"

"What are you trying to say?" Alaric glared at him.

"Nothing. I'm unsurprised that you would say such a thing since you care for Claudia so much. However, I must tell you this, Al. I'll have someone look into this matter, and it better not have anything to do with her.

Otherwise, I'm afraid what happens next will ruin our friendship." Bane was telling Alaric that he would make Claudia pay the price if she was involved in hurting Victoria.

"Are you defending Victoria?"

Chapter **133** I'll Make It Happen Soon

"Of course. Shouldn't I defend her since I love her? It's just like how you

defend Claudia,” Bane retorted.

Hearing his words, Alaric frowned and asked, “When have I defended her?”

Chapter 134

“I’m not blaming you for anything, Al. I understand why you’re defending Claudia. After all, the feelings you have for her are the same as I have for Victoria. Thus, it is normal to defend her.” Bane chuckled.

Alaric frowned and pursed his lips. He could tell that Bane kept mentioning Victoria while putting Claudia with him together. He was trying to be on the same line as Victoria and secretly helping her cut ties with him.

As Alaric thought about it, his eyes were filled with hostility. He gritted his teeth and tried to make a comeback. However, he realized he couldn’t say anything.

After some time, Bane thought of something and said, “I’m sorry. Was I being *too* straightforward?”

Alaric was speechless by his actions. After so many years of friendship, this was the first time Alaric felt that Bane was hard to deal with.

Meanwhile, Victoria had a dream. She dreamt she was in the ward while

1/7

579

Chapter 134 I’ll Help You

Alaric and Bane talked on each side of the bed. She could vaguely see them arguing, but she didn’t know what they were arguing about. She tried to read their lips but to no avail. She couldn’t make anything out of it.

Thus, she gave up. However, when she woke up, she noticed that her

dream wasn't just a dream.

2/7

As soon as she opened her eyes, she saw two people sitting on each side of the bed. When Victoria felt their gazes on her, she froze momentarily before closing her eyes.

I must be having too many dreams. That is why I can't differentiate between dreams and reality.

On the other hand, Alaric's expression turned cold when he saw Victoria closing her eyes after looking at him.

He wondered if she was unwilling to see him.

In the meantime, Bane smiled and said to her, "Don't pretend to be asleep if you are already awake, Vixie."

Alaric was even more upset when he heard the pet name he gave her.

12:31 Fri, 23

Chapter 134 I'll Help You

Yet, Victoria opened her eyes after hearing Bane's words.

Alaric was speechless.

This is real. It's not a dream, thought Victoria as she sat up while clutching her head. "Why are you guys here?" She thought she was dreaming, but it seemed to be reality.

Victoria was confused. If this were a dream, I wouldn't have woken up mid-way, right? As far as I can recall, Alaric wasn't here when I fell asleep.

"I'm worried about you," Bane said softly.

As soon as his words fell, Alaric cut him off and said gruffly, "If you are

awake, get up. We are going home.”

“Home?” Victoria looked at Alaric and seemed confused.

Her reaction made Alaric even angrier. However, he suppressed his emotions since Bane was here. “Yes. Don’t you want to see Grandma?”

Victoria kept quiet at the mention of Griselda.

3/7

Chapter 134 I’ll Help You

On the other hand, Bane grabbed her coat and phone. “Here are Victoria’s belongings.”

Alaric had a grim expression when he saw it. However, he said nothing and took it.

He wondered what Bane was thinking. After all, he admitted he had feelings for Victoria, yet he was willing to let Alaric take her home. In addition, he was even being considerate and gave him her belongings. However, Alaric soon knew his intentions. Just as Bane gave Alaric the belongings, Victoria thanked him gratefully while Bane smiled at her adoringly.

“It’s fine. Remember to get some rest once you’re at home, alright?”

“Okay.”

In that split second, Alaric looked at Bane speechlessly. He never knew Bane had a way with words. However, he couldn’t care less and walked toward Victoria with a coat in his hand. Initially, Victoria was going to wear it herself, but Alaric dodged her arm.

Victoria was confused.

4/7

Chapter 134 | Help You

Before she could say anything, Alaric spoke up. "I'll help you."

Hearing his words, Victoria didn't know what to say. Why does he want to help me all of a sudden? Can't I wear it on my own?

Before she was able to say anything, Alaric's cold voice sounded. "Hands."

At first, Victoria wanted to refuse. After all, Bane was still in the room and knew they were getting a divorce. After all, Griselda was done with her surgery. In other words, things had come to an end between her and Alaric. Thus, she didn't feel the need to put up the act anymore.

However, as she met his gaze, she couldn't say no. Therefore, as the two men stared at her, she slowly raised her hands and allowed Alaric to help her with the coat.

Since the coat had been out in the air for too long, it was cold. Thus, Victoria couldn't help but shiver when she sensed the cold.

Looking at her reaction, Alaric paused momentarily before taking off the coat again.

What is it now? Victoria was confused.

5/7

Chapter 134 I'll Help You

Then, Alaric threw her coat aside and took off his jacket.

At that moment, Victoria was speechless.

Before she could think any further, Alaric draped the coat around her shoulder. The coat was warm and cozy. Victoria was startled when she

returned to her senses and realized what he had done. Did he just give me his jacket because I was shivering from the cold?

Thinking about this, she got off the bed. However, as soon as her feet touched the ground, Alaric carried her. In that split second, Victoria wrapped her arms around his neck out of instinct.

Bane's eyes darkened when he saw the scene. However, he still looked calm and seemingly unaffected.

Since Alaric had to carry Victoria, he couldn't take any other stuff. Thus, he called out to Peter, who was waiting for him. "Come in and help me take some stuff, Mr. Levane."

When Peter heard Alaric's voice, he thought, I finally have something to do. Then, he quickly rushed into the room and took Victoria's stuff.

677

Chapter 134 | Help You

Looking at Bane, Alaric tightened his grip on Victoria. "We're leaving," he said to Bane.

Bane smiled and nodded. "I won't be walking you out, then. Stay safe." He acted like they were best friends and were not fighting now.

Alaric glanced at him before looking away. Then, *he* left while carrying Victoria.

Before Victoria left, she met Bane's eyes. Only when the latter nodded his head did she avert her gaze.

I'm sure Bane will be able to do what he promised me, right?

As she thought about it, she felt Alaric's chest rumble as he spoke. "What's

wrong? Are *you* not willing to leave?"

Chapter 135

After Victoria came to her senses, she quietly shook her head, but as soon as she thought of something, she withdrew her hand that was still clinging to Alaric's neck.

However, before she could move away, Alaric commanded coldly, "Hold on tight."

Truth be told, Victoria didn't want to obey him, so he deliberately loosened his grip on her when she was about to let go after sensing her intention.

Almost reflexively, Victoria hooked her arm around his neck even tighter.

Her wrist was delicate and fair, forming a vivid contrast against his skin.

It wasn't until she realized what she had just done that her expression changed.

Alaric, on the other hand, smirked when he felt the delicacy of her skin.

"Hold on tight, and don't fall."

This time, Victoria didn't let go, instead falling into her thoughts and

17

Chapter 135 Hold On Tight, and Don't Fall

occasionally glancing up at Alaric. The man walked effortlessly with her in his arms, his breath and steps both steady. From her angle, she could see the smooth and delicate contour of Alaric's jawline, as well as his slightly curved thin lips that had yet to retract.

She became confused.

If he hadn't answered her calls today—no, if he hadn't answered her calls

last time, she would have already given up on him. What was Alaric doing now? Did he even know what he was doing? They were both headed toward divorce, yet he still acted so flirtatiously.

Conversely, Peter huffed and puffed as he followed behind with their belongings. The sight of his boss embracing Victoria made his smiling face almost impossible to hide.

This is how you should act as a perfect couple. My boss has finally come to his senses, asking me to grab their things just so he could carry Miss Victoria out. Hopefully, he will end his affair with Claudia. I never want a new lady boss to join the Cadogan Group.

After he delivered the items to the car, he watched as Alaric held Victoria

2/7

Chapter

Fight, and Dont Fall

and sat inside, then he waved goodbye to them as they left.

The car's air conditioning was turned on during their journey back, so it was much cooler in the car than outside. While wrapped in Alaric's coat, Victoria sat in silence.

The temperature of the car made her feel drowsy. Just when she was about to lean against the seat to take a nap, Alaric, who was driving, spoke up. "What do you think of Bane?"

Hearing him speak, Victoria's drowsiness subsided slightly as she turned to look at him. "What?"

Alaric's thin lips twitched as he questioned coldly, "He saved you. Aren't

you grateful for him?”

3/7

“Of course,” Victoria nodded without hesitation. He rushed to save her, took her to the hospital for an examination, and took care of her attentively.

Most importantly, he found out about her pregnancy but chose to help her keep it a secret from Alaric. Such respect and understanding made Victoria deeply grateful.

Seeing how she admitted to it without any hesitation, his brows furrowed

Chapter 135 Hold On Tight, and Don't Fall

tightly. “Do you like him?”

Thinking that she heard some kind of ridiculous joke, Victoria squinted at him. “What does my gratitude have to do with liking him?”

Alaric pursed his lips and replied impulsively, “If you don't like him, why did you

let him stay by your bedside? You even slept so peacefully for such a long time. Weren't you afraid he might've had other intentions?”

At this, Victoria had no more doubts. No wonder he acted so strangely in front of Bane today. Did he mistake my feelings and assume I like Bane?

So, that's the case...

She initially thought he was flirting with her, but it turned out that she was just being presumptuous. With this in mind, Victoria closed her eyes and retorted without reservation, “He saved me, but apart from being grateful to him, I don't feel anything else for him at the moment. You don't need to worry about that. After all, people like you are rare.”

As soon as she finished speaking, the car fell silent. Victoria suddenly felt that she might have gone too far, but after thinking about it, since he was already suspicious of her feelings for Bane, saying a few words to him

477

Chapter 135 Hold On Tight, and Don't Fall

shouldn't be a problem.

E

If he wants to get mad, let him be. After all, Grandma has already finished her surgery, so there's nothing for me to worry about.

Sure enough, Alaric sulked all the way afterward, not saying a single word.

Instead of getting out of the car as soon as Victoria arrived at *her* house, she asked, "How is Grandma doing now?"

"She's okay." Alaric paused for a moment before he spoke.

"That's good. How long does she need to be observed?"

"Forty-eight hours."

After that, both of them fell silent for a long time and thought of something simultaneously.

"Well..." Victoria looked at Alaric and said softly, "Forty-eight hours is a bit rushed. How about three days later?"

Hearing this, he looked at her.

Th

5/7

Chapter 135 Hold On Tight, and Don't Fall

In the dimly lit car, Victoria's expression remained calm. Her pale lips

added a touch of sickly beauty and delicacy.

Meanwhile, Alaric's thin lips pursed in a straight line.

Just moments ago, she was cuddled up against his neck in his arms. But here she was, wearing his coat and discussing the day they would file for divorce. He ought to consent to it, for they previously agreed that once his grandma's surgery was completed, this fake marriage would no longer be valid. However, for some reason, Alaric's heart was quietly rebelling as if a voice was urging him not to get a divorce.

Once they got divorced, he would lose her completely.

"Grandma's condition will probably stabilize within three days. We'll get the divorce certificate first, then-"

"Let's wait a little longer," said Alaric, cutting her off all of a sudden.

Victoria was stunned by what she heard. "What?" What for? Shouldn't he be eager to get a divorce? That way, he can finally be with Claudia.

"Yeah," he answered in a hoarse voice, his eyes gloomy. "Let's wait a little

6/7

1231

FII, 20

Chapter 135 Hold On Tight, and Don't Fall

longer. Grandma needs time to recover after the surgery. If we divorce too early, I'm afraid it will affect her health."

70

She remained silent and thought about it. Alaric's reasoning seemed valid, and there didn't seem to be any problem with waiting a few more days.

“What’s wrong?” Alaric asked when she said nothing for a long time, the light in his eyes darkening. “Can’t you wait a few more days? Are you in a hurry?”

Hearing him, Victoria came back to her senses and shook her head. “No, I think you’re right. Let’s wait a few more days. I didn’t think it through.

Grandma’s body does need time to recover.”

Her understanding attitude left Alaric speechless once again. It was as if she had thought through the consequences and only agreed to postpone the divorce out of rationality. Suddenly, an unfamiliar pain made Alaric pause for a moment as it radiated throughout his body.

Chapter 136

The area where his heart was located suddenly became numb, even numbing his fingertips. Alaric couldn’t help but let out a muffled groan, instinctively pressing his palm against his chest.

Hearing his painful moan, Victoria looked over and noticed him leaning against the steering wheel with a terrible complexion.

For all the time they’d known each other, Alaric’s health had remained great, hardly ever falling ill. This was the first time Victoria had ever seen him in such a bad state, so she was also taken aback as she quickly reached out to support him.

“What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

The dull pain did not disappear but instead intensified when Victoria supported him, and the feeling of emptiness in his heart continued to grow. However, when he saw the worry on Victoria’s face, this feeling of

emptiness was slowly filled with another emotion.

Alaric wasn't answering, yet still sweating profusely and appearing to be in great pain, so Victoria said, "I'll call an ambulance for you." But before she

1/8

Chapter 135 Are You Worried About Me"

could even reach for her phone, Alaric grabbed her wrist tightly with his hot and strong palm, and it felt like a branding iron against her skin.

He gripped her wrist tightly while suddenly leaning toward her.

Victoria was startled, thinking that Alaric was only doing so because he wasn't feeling well, so she quickly reached out to support him once again.

However, Alaric stopped just inches away from her lips, his dark and deep gaze piercing into her in the dim environment.

The pain made his breathing unstable.

Regardless, Alaric still held onto her hand tightly and pressed it against his chest as if doing so would ease the pain.

Victoria lowered her head and glanced **at** where her hand was placed, which happened to be over Alaric's heart, and it was pounding so hard that even she could feel it.

She had never seen Alaric act as such before.

"What's wrong with you?" she asked as she looked at the agony on his face, wondering why he was so close to her despite being in so much

Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

pain.

Alaric's Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he pursed his thin lips. "Are

you worried about me?”

“What do you think?” Victoria replied. Given the way he looked, it was only natural for her to worry. She didn’t pick up on anything about Alaric’s questioning, but she did sense that his breathing was becoming more and more unstable. Thus, she suggested for fear of his safety, “Let me call an ambulance.”

“Don’t!” Alaric growled, then accused her, saying, “You’re not worried about me.”

His words made Victoria furrow her brows in frustration. “What are you talking about? Let go of my hand, and I’ll call for an ambulance. If you don’t want to get an ambulance, I’ll take you to the hospital.”

Alaric gazed at her silently as if trying to ascertain something, then only released her hand slowly after some time. “I’m not going.”

While saying so, he sat back and closed his eyes while resting against the seat.

3/8

Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

The dull pain in his heart from earlier felt all too real, but it had subsided

4/8

somewhat now. Nevertheless, Alaric’s forehead was covered in sweat, and a few strands of black hair stuck onto it.

Seeing him lean back in his seat, Victoria frowned. “Why won’t you go to the hospital? You’re not feeling well.”

“It won’t do any good,” Alaric muttered.

Victoria's frown deepened. "How do you know that if you haven't even gone to the hospital? Do you even know what your symptoms are?"

He sat in silence with his eyes downcast, still reeling from the agony he had just endured. In the dingy environment, he looked almost defeated with a hint of sadness etched on his face that made her heart ache.

Victoria couldn't quite put her finger on why she was feeling this way too. Truth be told, the way Alaric looked just now had scared her. Despite knowing him for so many years, she had never seen him in so much pain before.

As she thought about it, Victoria narrowed her eyes and looked at Alaric intently. "What's wrong with you? Do you have some incurable disease or
Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

something?"

Alaric, who had been hanging his head, looked at her speechlessly when he heard her words. He scoffed. "An incurable disease? Are you hoping for me to die soon?"

"Then why won't you go to the hospital?" Victoria pressed. It was strange that he had seemed so pained earlier, yet he refused to seek medical attention. Didn't he find himself acting strange too?

Before he could answer, Victoria wanted to continue questioning him, but she was stopped when Alaric abruptly unlocked the car door and said. hoarsely, "Go up."

Victoria wanted to say more, but upon seeing his apathetic expression and the fact that he didn't seem interested in conversing any further, she

suddenly lost her enthusiasm. She realized that even if Alaric had a medical condition, it wasn't her place to care for him anymore. They were about to get divorced, after all.

With a cold heart, Victoria undid her seatbelt and prepared to get out of the car.

5/8

Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

"Wait." Unexpectedly, Alaric called out to her again.

She turned to look. Did he change his mind? Does he want me to take him to the hospital?

The **next** second, Alaric turned the keys and said coldly, "I'll go up with you."

With that, he opened the car door and got out, leaving Victoria wondering what he was up to. Nonetheless, she had no choice but to follow him out of the car.

When she got out of the car, Victoria noticed that Alaric had already come over to her side. He helped her close her car door and immediately picked her up in his arms.

"It's fine," said Victoria, instinctively refusing.

"What do you mean?" Alaric glared at her, his breaths still rough. "After what happened today, can you walk up by yourself?"

6/8

It was only a few steps, and Victoria didn't think she couldn't make it on her own with an injured foot.

Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

Elaine kicked hard, but even if it didn't appear to break the skin on the surface, it ultimately hurt deeply. If she wanted to get better, she would have to put up with the discomfort for a few days at the very least.

Regardless, walking a short distance was not a problem since she could just endure the pain. Alaric had looked so painful just moments ago, yet he was now holding her.

"Please put me down. Didn't you just?"

"Shut up!" Alaric interrupted her impatiently. "I'll take you upstairs so that you can rest."

Knowing that he was a very stubborn person, Victoria didn't say anything and silently hoped that this journey wouldn't take long.

After Alaric brought her back to her room, he glanced at the wound on her leg and said, "If you need to bathe, ask the servant to come up and help you."

"Alright, I got it." Victoria nodded.

Alaric looked at Victoria as she sat on the bed quietly and obediently,

7/8

Chapter 136 Are You Worried About Me?

which caused him to feel a huge sadness in his heart. It was a long time before he finally said, "I'm sorry about today."

Hearing this, Victoria became startled. She thought that the matter would just be skipped over and never expected him to apologize voluntarily.

"In the future, I will protect you."

8/8

12:32 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

Chapter 137

After saying those words, Alaric silently repeated them to himself. I won't let anyone lay a finger on Victoria ever again.

To his surprise, Victoria merely smiled faintly in response. "It's alright. You were also looking for someone, after all. If I were in your shoes, I would've done the same. It's all out of necessity."

Alaric couldn't help but smile bitterly. What should he say? His wife was so gracious and composed. Even at a time like this, she was actively trying to give him a way out. However, her calm demeanor also implied something else.

"Well, I'm going to rest now. You should too." Victoria didn't want to stay any longer, fearing that the conversation between them would become more and more awkward. As such, she directly ended the topic.

Hearing her say she wanted to rest, Alaric didn't say anything else. "You should rest first. I'm going out for a bit."

Victoria paused for a moment, then nodded. "Alright, be careful."

1/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

As Alaric left the villa and got back into his car, his gaze became unfathomable; there was something lodged in his chest that he couldn't get rid of.

H

Even though such a big incident had occurred, she still spoke to him politely and softly as if she had no resentment toward him. She even came up with an excuse for him when he hadn't protected her well enough.

To Alaric, he'd rather her act like how she used to; he wanted her to get mad and question him for running out at a time like this. But now, it seemed like she wouldn't do such things anymore.

How did they get to this point?

On the other hand, Claudia immediately called her father as soon as Alaric left and told him about what happened today, including Alaric's suspicion of her and Elaine's collusion.

Ever since Claudia saved Alaric and became the Cadogans' savior many years ago, the Johnsons had received numerous favors from the

2/8

12:32 Fri, 23

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

Cadogans in *the* business world. Before that, the Johnsons always struggled to advance beyond a certain point and could never climb any higher, causing Claudia's father to worry endlessly.

However, Claudia happened to save Alaric at that time, and news of it spread throughout the entire upper-class society overnight—the Johnsons were now the Cadogan Family's savior and the two families would be on good terms in the future. Since then, they suddenly found themselves in high demand as many sought to work with them, and even

those who had grudges against them in the past came to make peace. As a result, the Johnsons began to flourish as they rose to prominence, eventually becoming one of the top five enterprises in Gandra. In the past, they couldn't even make it into the top 20.

Claudia's father was now highly respected in Gandra, and he even considered himself Alaric's future father-in-law. Subsequently, when he heard that Alaric was beginning to suspect his daughter, he panicked and immediately left work to meet his daughter.

Upon seeing his daughter in the hospital with a broken forehead, Claudia's father became enraged. "What happened, Claudia? How did you get hurt

3/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

like this?"

"Dad..." Claudia burst into tears and threw herself into his arms.

Her pitiful appearance broke her father's heart, and he comforted her before she told him everything that happened.

"I don't know what to do now, Dad. Al has begun to suspect me. Although I told him I had nothing to do with this matter and he doesn't blame me anymore, I feel like he won't treat me the same as before."

Upon hearing this, Claudia's father held his daughter's hand and said gently, "Claudia, you don't have to worry too much about this. No matter what, you are Alaric's savior, and as long as you hold this title, he will never treat you unfairly."

He'll never treat me unfairly as long as I'm his savior, right? That's true, the

Cadogan Family values this very much. Otherwise, we wouldn't have risen so fast these years.

At that, Claudia thought of something else. What if Alaric finds out Victoria was the *one* who saved him, not me? Given his personality, he might kill me!

4/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

The thought **of** this possibility made Claudia break out in a cold sweat.

Fortunately, there were no other witnesses besides Victoria and herself at the time. If a third person knew about it, she would be finished.

"How about this? Let me handle the issue with those two. You just have to focus on pleasing Alaric."

When Claudia heard her father's choice of words, she was displeased.

"What do you mean by that, Dad? My relationship with Alaric is equal. I'm not like those women who try to please Alaric to climb up the ranks."

"Yes, yes, of course, my daughter is the best. Alaric likes you so much that he can't get enough of you."

Just then, he noticed the wound on Claudia's forehead once again.

"As for the wound on your forehead, Claudia, it's best not to leave a scar.

After all, men are superficial creatures. If you aren't beautiful in the future, they will become fickle."

Talking about the wound on her forehead made Claudia feel insecure.

5/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

“I understand, Dad. I’ll find a way to fix it later.”

“Well, you should rest first. Remember to coax Alaric well. Men like being pampered, after all. If he’s still angry, then you’ll have to figure it out yourself. Just make sure you coax him well, understand?”

After 48 hours since Griselda underwent surgery, she finally got transferred from the intensive care unit to a regular ward. The Alaric Family, who had been waiting all this while, finally breathed a sigh of relief. On the other hand, Victoria had already rested at home for a day, so her leg was no longer as painful as before. However, Alaric wasn’t in favor of her visiting the hospital just yet. Upon learning of her injury, even Alaric’s father and mother disagreed as well, insisting that she rest at home for another day.

“Your grandma is in the intensive care unit now. Even if you go, you won’t be able to see her. You might as well rest at home for two more days.

After that, Alaric will bring you to the hospital when she is out of the intensive care unit.”

6/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

In the end, Victoria was convinced and could only agree.

Nonetheless, on the very next day before the 48 hours were up, she told Alaric that she wanted to visit Griselda at the hospital.

At first, Alaric disagreed as he frowned and asked, “Has your injury healed? Shouldn’t you rest for a few more days at home?”

Upon hearing this, Victoria shook her head. “I don’t need to rest anymore. I

want to visit Grandma now.”

Rather than waiting until now, she should've gone to the hospital on the day she came back. If it weren't for Alaric's father and mother persuading her as well, Victoria would not have been so obedient.

“Are you sure you want to go?”

Victoria pursed her lips and said softly, “If you're too busy to take me, then I'll go by myself.”

Alaric remained silent for a long time, then suddenly agreed to take her.

“Go and get changed, then. I'll take you there now.”

7/8

Chapter 137 Finding an Excuse for Him

“Alright.” Victoria's face lit up with joy.

Immediately, she turned and ran to change her clothes in excitement, but with a strange gait due to her leg injury.

While watching her, Alaric couldn't help but smile. “Be careful not to aggravate your leg injury.”

Chapter 138

E

After arriving at the hospital, Victoria was delighted to see that Griselda was recovering well, and she stayed by her side to keep her company.

When Griselda saw her looking like a cheerful young girl, it lifted her spirits considerably as well.

“Are you thirsty, Grandma? Does your wound hurt? Are you tired? Do you want to eat something or take a nap? If you can't sleep, I can tell you a

story.” Perhaps due to her excitement, Victoria did not notice the contradictory nature of her words.

Griselda didn’t point it out but instead said, “I’m not tired, but since want to tell me a story, I’ll listen for a little while before sleeping.”

With that, Victoria began to tell Griselda various stories, and Griselda listened with relish, her lips curving into a benevolent smile.

you

Meanwhile, as Mary listened to Victoria’s gentle voice, she couldn’t help but watch her in admiration, thinking that her daughter-in-law was quite remarkable. After all, she did not have that much patience to tell an elderly person such stories. Moreover, Victoria could narrate different

1/7

Chapter **138** You’re the President’s Wife

stories without any references.

Eventually, Griselda fell asleep to the sound of Victoria’s soothing voice.

Only after Griselda fell asleep for a while did Victoria stop. Just as she was about to sit on the edge of the bed, she saw Mary waving at her. She seemed like she had something to say, so Victoria followed her to the balcony of the ward.

Mary closed the glass door, blocking the sound from spreading to the ward, then pulled Victoria to sit on a chair on the balcony. “How are you? Is your leg injury serious? It seems like you’ve recovered when I saw you walking just now.”

Victoria nodded. “Yeah, it has healed quite a bit.”

“That’s good to hear. If you still feel uncomfortable, don’t force yourself. Sit down and rest when you need to.”

“Okay, I will.”

“By the way, this is for you.” Suddenly, Mary took out a card from her bag and pushed it in front of Victoria.

2/7

Chapter 138 You’re the President’s Wife

Seeing the bank card, Victoria was stunned. “What?”

“Here’s some pocket money for you,” Mary said softly.

“I don’t need it!” Instinctively, Victoria rejected the offer and pushed the card back to her.

“What do you mean you don’t need it? You’ve been married to Al for so long, but I’ve never given you any pocket money. What’s wrong with giving you some now? Do you think my money is not good enough?”

Hearing that, Victoria could only explain in a fluster, “It’s not that. I have money. I work at the company, and I get a salary every month.”

“You know that’s just your salary. Is it the same as the pocket money I’m giving you? Besides, you’re not even an employee of the Cadogan Group. You’re the president’s wife.”

When Victoria heard those words, she smiled shyly out of embarrassment.

The president’s wife... I’ll be losing that title in two days, though. Even now, I’m just the president’s fake wife.

“Take it. It’s something I’m only giving you,” Mary said, pushing the bank

3/7

Chapter 138 You're the President's Wife

card toward her. "Buy yourself something you like. Girls your age need to spend more money on dressing up. You always dress too plainly."

Suddenly, she thought of Claudia, who had come to the hospital to secretly visit Griselda.

47

Truth be told, the injury on Claudia's forehead looked shocking. Her face was pale, and she was still wearing a hospital gown. She was in such a hurry to come here that even her hair was messy. When she came with Alaric that day, she stood next to him cautiously, not even touching the hem of his clothes. With a pale complexion and a look of extreme fragility, she appeared pitiful. It was the kind of appearance that many men would likely find endearing and want to protect.

Looking at Victoria in front of her, Mary sighed in secret. It's not that Victoria isn't good, but she's too independent and often solves things on her own. Claudia, on the other hand...

As a woman, how could she not see the affection Claudia had for her son? After all, Claudia was their family's benefactor, so she still needed to be polite to her. However, this politeness was only limited to being a guest. If she wants to take Victoria's place and replace her, I will be the first to

Chapter 138 You're the President's Wife

disapprove as a mother.

Am I dressing too plainly? In actuality, Victoria never dressed plainly before Mary returned to the country, for she had always been fond of

fashion and beauty. Before the Selwyn Family went bankrupt, her clothes, jewelry, and bags were the trendiest of the season. She was also a premium customer of many brands, who would send her specific gifts each year and invite her to attend various events.

However, after the Selwyn Family went bankrupt, she didn't have the money or the mood to be extravagant anymore. Even if Alaric gives me money, I... She lowered her gaze without thinking about it anymore. After all, it was more reassuring to spend her own money. Since her marriage with Alaric was fake, she would feel guilty if she kept spending his money, but superficially, she still smiled and nodded in acceptance.

"Okay, I will buy more clothes in the future. Thanks, Mom." Afterward, she accepted the bank card without any objection. At the same time, she thought to herself, I will return the card to Alaric after we get our divorce certificate and have him return it to his mother. With this thought in mind, she felt more at ease.

5/7

Chapter 138 You're the President's Wife

"By the way..." Mary, who had given her the pocket money, didn't plan on letting her go that easily. After Victoria accepted the bank card, she brought up the incident from the other day. "Was it Bane who saved you that day?"

Talking about that day, Victoria nodded. "Yes."

"Well, that child is really thoughtful. I heard that he planned to come and visit when he heard that your grandma was having surgery, and he

happened to see you being taken away.” At that, Mary couldn’t help but sigh. “Thank goodness he witnessed it. Otherwise, we can’t guarantee what would have happened later. Also…”

Mary has a very agile mind, for she didn’t wait for Victoria to answer before starting the next sentence. “After you came back that day, did you go through a comprehensive check–up?”

Check–up? Not again! Whenever Victoria heard the word, she would get a headache. She had been hiding it well, but because of this sudden incident, her secret was discovered by Bane. Fortunately, Bane wanted to help Alaric and Claudia get together. Otherwise, if he had told Alaric about this matter without her consent, the trouble would have been on herself.

6/7

Chapter 138 You’re the President’s Wife

“Yeah, I did go through one.”

Despite that, Mary wasn’t too reassured and said softly, “How about this? After your grandma recovers in the next few days, let’s go for another comprehensive check–up at this hospital. We must not overlook any issues.”

In the next few days? I’ll probably not be Mrs. Cadogan by then. Yet, Victoria nodded. “Okay.”

Chapter 139 You’re Considering Me in Every Way

Chapter 139

Victoria was caught off guard when Mary’s words turned out to be true in a few days. Just two days later, Mary suddenly pulled her aside excitedly

and said, "Let's do the check-up tomorrow, Victoria."

Stunned by the sudden news, Victoria asked, "Why has it been brought forward, Mom? I thought you said to wait for Grandma to recover after a few more days."

With a smile, Mary replied, "That's because your grandma has been recovering well lately, and the doctor says she's in good condition. Also, I heard that a very skilled doctor is visiting, and he'll only be here for a few days. You should take this opportunity to do the check-up, and we can show the doctor the results later."

Upon hearing those words, Victoria finally understood why Mary wanted her to do the check-up ahead of schedule. However, she could only awkwardly think of a way to refuse. "Actually, it's just a regular check-up, and normal machines are sufficient. Even a regular doctor can interpret them."

1/7

57%

Chapter 139 You're Considering Me in Every Way

"That's true, but this is an opportunity that's right in front of us. Your

2/7

grandma and I have already talked about it. I told her that I'll take you for a check-up in a day or two, and she has already agreed."

Instantly, Victoria turned speechless. She had thought of using Griselda's name if the previous excuse didn't work, but Mary had somehow managed to convince her too. Isn't she too efficient? If I refuse now, will

she find me suspicious? After all, as women, our thoughts are quite similar. It seems that refusing at this point is impossible. I have to think of another way.

That evening, when Alaric came to pick her up after work, she took the initiative to bring up the matter on the way. "I heard that Grandma has been recovering well recently."

With just one sentence, he understood what she wanted to say.

Immediately, he furrowed his brow and remained silent, but Victoria immediately noticed the change in his aura.

For some reason, she felt her heart sink as she considered how to broach the topic with him. Unexpectedly, even at this point, she still wanted to part with him amicably. Although she would be raising their child alone and

12:33 Fri, 23 Jun

Chapter 139 You're Considering Me in Every Way

might never see him again in her lifetime, she still wanted to abide by her principles at this moment.

"Honestly speaking, my idea is to keep this from Grandma for the time being, but we can try telling Dad and Mom first. They are young and optimistic, so they should be able to accept it. What do you think?"

He remained silent, but after a while, he asked, "And the reason being?" His voice was icy and lacked any warmth, which was even colder than she had imagined.

"Just say we can't get along anymore. You can also say that I'm the one who asked for the divorce."

At this point, he sneered. "So, you've already come up with a reason so quickly and even thought it through so carefully, planning to take all the blame for yourself."

Victoria pursed her lips at his words. Although she didn't want to do it, he had helped her when she went bankrupt, and the thought of leaving with their child made her feel guilty. As long as I can divorce him, I'm willing to take the blame for everything. If this drags on, it will be detrimental to me.

377

Chapter 139 You're Considering Me in Every Way

We are always together in our daily lives, so I don't know when I will be exposed.

At this thought, she forced a smile that was difficult to maintain and said, "Well, if you say that I asked for the divorce, it won't affect you being with anyone else in the future."

Screech! Hearing this, Alaric suddenly turned the car at the next turn and made a sharp brake. The car made a screeching sound before coming to a sudden stop at the side of the road.

An

After he stopped the car, he pressed his hands on the wheel and looked at her with a gloomy expression. "So, you're considering me in every way. Should I thank you, Ms. Snowball?" He emphasized her name at the end of his sentence through gritted teeth.

Initially, Victoria didn't want to say anything, but the words were on her lips, and she couldn't hold back anymore. "There's no need to thank me. If it's

okay with you, can we go to the city hall tomorrow?"

Once again, he remained silent. He had been staring at her the whole time, his gaze as sharp as ever, never leaving her for a moment.

Chapter 139 You're Considering Me in Every Way

He obviously heard me, but why isn't he responding? Looking at him acting like this, she felt a little helpless, for she had no idea what he was thinking at all. Previously, it was because of Griselda's condition that they had no choice but to postpone their divorce, but Griselda had been recovering well over the past few days.

5/7

Maybe it's just my imagination, but he seems to not want a divorce. That can't be right, though. He probably can't wait to get divorced so that he can marry Claudia. If it weren't for Grandma's illness, he probably would have married Claudia already instead of faking a marriage with me to make Grandma happy.

Her heart turned cold upon coming to this conclusion, and she didn't look at him anymore but turned around to the front. "Okay, it's decided. We'll find a time to go to the city hall tomorrow." She made the decision herself. After she turned away, Alaric's face turned extremely unpleasant, but he remained motionless in his original position. The car was still parked on the side of the road without moving, and the atmosphere inside the car was tense to the extreme.

Sometime later, she realized that he was still not driving. Her delicate

Chapter 139 You're Considering Me in Every Way

eyebrows furrowed as she thought, Is he planning to stay here tonight?
“Aren’t we leaving?” she asked.

Yet, there was still no response from him, and his gaze was still fixed on her.

Victoria had no idea what he was planning to do, so she thought to herself, Whatever. I’m tired of all the talk. If he isn’t leaving, I won’t leave either. We can just spend the night here.

Considering this, she didn’t dwell on this matter anymore. She emotionlessly adjusted the temperature in the car two degrees higher and unbuttoned two buttons on her coat to have more space to stretch when lying down. Then she adjusted her seat backward. When she was doing all of this, she could feel Alaric still staring at her, but she ignored him. As soon as she adjusted the seat, she lay down and closed her eyes. If he wants to buy time, I’ll just sleep.

The whole time, she could feel that even after she closed her eyes, his gaze was still on her face, so she had to pretend that she couldn’t feel anything.

6/7

Chapter 139 You’re Considering Me In Every Way

At first, she felt a little uncomfortable when his gaze was on her, but as drowsiness gradually set in, she stopped paying attention to it. She had been especially tired since becoming pregnant and often couldn’t get enough sleep. Coupled with the frequent trips to the hospital lately, she slept even less. As such, it didn’t take long after lying down for her to fall

into a deep sleep.

After she fell asleep, she didn't realize that Alaric was listening to her even breathing and watching her peaceful face as she slept, his face gradually turning blue. How can she sleep so soundly in this situation?

Yet, in the end, he couldn't bear to wake her up. As time passed, his gaze became helpless, and he couldn't help but use his fingertips to lightly touch her fair forehead. "How can you be asleep? Are you that heartless?"

Chapter 140

The next day, when Victoria woke up, she found that it was already 8.00AM. She looked at the familiar surroundings and the snow-white ceiling before carefully feeling the soft bed beneath her. Finally, she confirmed that she was in her bed at home.

After a moment of daze, she sat up while holding her head. I can't believe I slept so soundly. I remember falling asleep in the car last night, which means that Alaric must have brought me back.

She sat there for a while, then picked up her phone to check for any messages from Alaric. However, there were none, and their chat history was still empty.

After some thought, she called Alaric while walking into the bathroom to wash up. The phone rang for a long time before he answered.

"What is it?" His voice was cold and clear.

Victoria had already squeezed some toothpaste onto her toothbrush and was about to brush her teeth when she heard his voice, so her actions came to a halt. "Regarding the matter I told you yesterday, we're

1/8

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

supposed to go-

2/8

Before she could finish speaking, he interrupted her coldly and said, "I have a very important meeting to attend now. It will probably take three hours."

Hearing that, she became speechless. She pressed her lips together and tried to control her anger. "Can't you postpone it a little? You can spare half an hour, can't you?"

However, he replied directly, "I can't. This meeting is urgent."

If it weren't for working at the Cadogan Group for so long, she would probably have believed him.

However, before she could say anything else, Alaric said, "I have to go to the meeting now. Bye." He hung up the phone right away.

When Victoria heard the busy tone on her phone, she stood still with the phone in her hand, speechless. Turns out it wasn't just my imagination yesterday. He doesn't want a divorce, but why?

With these questions in her mind, she quickly got ready and took a shower since she hadn't taken one last night.

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

When she finished getting ready and went downstairs, she saw Mary in the living room.

As soon as Mary saw her, she immediately walked up to her. "You're finally awake, Victoria."

Only when Victoria saw Mary did she remember that the woman was taking her to the hospital for a check-up today.

Initially, she planned on talking to Alaric about getting a divorce on their way home last night. If he agreed, she could use that as an excuse to leave with him and go get their divorce certificate today. When they returned home, she could be honest with Adrian and Mary about the divorce. By then, they would be distracted by the news of the divorce and wouldn't think about taking her to get a medical check-up.

That was the plan that she had in mind. However, she never expected Alaric to be uncooperative. Urgent meeting, my foot! It's just an excuse. She felt that he was deliberately avoiding her.

"Victoria? Victoria?"

Mary's voice brought her back to reality.

3/8

57%

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

"What's wrong with you? You look so absent-minded." Mary looked at her with great concern and held her hand. "Did you hurt yourself somewhere else that day? It seems like this check-up today is necessary."

4/8

"Mom, I don't want to get another check-up," Victoria replied. With Alaric avoiding her, she couldn't go to the city hall alone, so she had to refuse the medical check-up.

However, Mary would never let her off so easily. She immediately frowned

upon hearing Victoria's refusal. "Why not? You were absent-minded just now when I was talking to you. Maybe those people hurt you somewhere else."

Victoria could only maintain her smile and say, "No, I only hurt my calf that day. It doesn't hurt anywhere else."

Furthermore, it was Elaine who kicked her calf. Although Christopher was the one who kidnapped her, it was a surprise he didn't do anything to her. Thinking about him and Elaine, Victoria became curious about what had happened to them. "By the way, Mom, do you know what happened to those two after that day?"

E

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

Mary shook her head. "I don't know, but Bane said he would take care of it. He's reliable, so I trust him. Don't worry, I heard that Al also looked into this matter after that, so they will definitely be punished."

"Bane is handling this matter now, eh?"

"Probably."

•

With that piece of information, Victoria planned on visiting Bane.

"Let's go. I've already made an appointment with the doctor. Although it's a little late now, we can still make it in time." After speaking, Mary took Victoria's hand and led her out.

Victoria wanted to refuse, but Mary had already pulled her out of the house. In the end, they arrived at the hospital.

At this point, Victoria was becoming nervous. Is there no way for me to escape today? If Mom finds out that I'm pregnant, she will certainly tell the rest. "Mom, I just remembered that I have something else to do, I..."

"Mary Statham?" A surprised female voice suddenly came from behind them.

5/8

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

This voice... When Victoria turned around and saw who it was, the color on her lips gradually faded. How can it be her?

Mary's full name was Mary Statham, and she and Samantha, the wife of the Rogers Family's patriarch, were considered frenemies. Samantha was jealous of Mary's excellence and beauty, whereas Mary couldn't stand Samantha's arrogance and stinginess, so the two of them always acted superficially like best friends. This was because the Cadogan Family and the Keith Family had business dealings, so they had to maintain their dignity when they met each other at various events.

"Samantha Keith?"

Samantha took a few steps forward, looking at Mary in front of her with some surprise. "It's really you. When did you come back? Why didn't you tell me? I could have picked you up from the airport."

Upon hearing this, Mary sneered in secret. "I knew you were busy, so I couldn't ask you to pick me up from the airport."

"How could I be busy? Even if I were, I would've made time for you."

"Well, I'll let you know in advance the next time I come back."

6/9

12

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

“Please do.” The two of them insincerely exchanged pleasantries as though they were close friends.

After the pleasantries were over, Samantha suddenly noticed Victoria standing next to them. At this moment, she remembered the incident where Victoria saw her daughter at the hospital last time. Her face changed, and she chuckled. “Oh, Victoria’s here too. What happened? Why are you guys here at the hospital?”

As she spoke, her gaze kept shifting up and down Victoria’s body, finally landing on her stomach.

When Victoria noticed that, she became speechless.

Meanwhile, Mary didn’t know Samantha had some hidden motive, but she had always disliked her. When she saw Samantha using such impolite eyes to scrutinize her daughter-in-law, she didn’t like it and stepped forward to block Victoria. “What about you, Samantha? What are you doing at the hospital today?”

At her question, Samantha finally remembered her purpose for coming to **the** hospital, and her eyes flashed with hostility. She then looked at

7/9

Chapter 140 He Was Avoiding Her

Victoria, who was behind Mary, and a hint of resentment flashed across her eyes.

