

## Departure with a Belly Chapter 566

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*Chapter 566 Like a Matchmaking Event*

*Victoria thought*

*Summer was amazing, too, since the latter had been engrossed in her work for so long. Summer hadn't hidden anything from her best friend during their recent conversations and opened up about everything, including the amount of money she had saved up, as well as her desire to open a tiny shop for her*

*parents.*

*Victoria had been considering recruiting Summer to her company. She could give Summer a high salary because they were best friends. However, Summer had told her about her plans to open a shop before Victoria had suggested it and even discussed some details with her. Victoria could discern how much she wanted to do it from her tone, so she didn't feel comfortable enough to bring up the topic.*

*If Summer really wanted a high salary, she didn't have to fly back at all because the benefits Erik gave were definitely comparable to those Victoria would offer. Besides, his company was much bigger, unlike hers. He had built his business from scratch and was a famous figure, plus it was already a stable company. Meanwhile, Victoria's company had just been founded and wasn't comparable to his at all.*

*Presently, Mary suddenly recalled something and asked Victoria, "Is your friend too busy with work, or does she not have any intention of dating?"*

*Victoria chuckled upon hearing that. "She's too busy."*

*After losing her memory, Victoria had originally known nothing about Summer's past and wouldn't have been able to answer that question. However, she could discern some hints from Summer's words during their recent conversations. Summer was especially en*

vious when Alaric did something for Victoria. She would complain about their public displays of affection and say that she wanted to be in a relationship as well. After hearing this enough, Victoria could roughly guess how Summer felt about romance.

“If it’s not because she doesn’t want to date, then I have someone I can introduce to her.”

Victoria looked surprised. “Mom, you want to be a matchmaker for her?”

Mary laughed. “Yep. I think she has a great character, plus I have met a young man who seems nice.”

Victoria did not agree to it immediately. While she didn’t have a strong belief in social classes, it didn’t mean every one else was the same. The people Mary knew wouldn’t be common folk due to her social class, so what if the man looked down on Summer’s family? It wouldn’t just result in a failed match; it would make Summer unhappy too.

“Alright, then. I’ll ask what she thinks about it.”

“Sure. You should definitely ask the opinion of the person involved. If she’s interested, just tell me.”

Nothing much happened while they waited for their flight. Since everyone in the family was present, Nicole and Nathan were cared for by Adrian and Mary. If the couple couldn’t cope, Peter, as well as Adrian’s and Mary’s bodyguards, were also there. It was quite an entourage.

Victoria had been sitting on the seats but eventually lay inside Alaric’s embrace because the chairs were too hard. She leaned against him as she texted Summer, not daring to relay Mary’s words straight away. Instead, she took a gentler and less direct approach in asking Summer’s opinion.

‘Did your family tell you to go on blind dates during the New Year?’

*Youngsters usually didn't have the time to return home, and so usually went on blind dates during the holidays, plus their family members were eager to do so as well. As such, Victoria could only start from there to check whether Summer was against someone that was introduced to her.*

*Summer's reply was swift. 'I don't want to talk about it. The hinges of my front door are nearly falling off with the number of people that want to introduce someone to me. I don't know where people get the energy to do it. Don't they get tired of it?'*

*She couldn't help but complain at that point. "When I get older, I will never go around introducing potential partners to other people. It's the New Year, so they should enjoy it. How can it be the New Year if everyone went around introducing potential partners to others? Just call it a matchmaking event.'*

*Her complaints made Victoria laugh.*

*'Who said it wasn't? The New Year is just another occasion for a matchmaking event, as well as encouraging couples to have children.'*

*'Yeah, the married couples aren't much better off compared to me. All of them are being urged to have children.'*

*Everyone was in the same boat, after all.*

*'Hey, do you think I will be unbothered like this now if I married and had children early like you?'*

*Victoria had thought introducing someone to Summer was off the table, yet her friend had suddenly mentioned Victoria's marriage.*

*Victoria then asked tentatively, 'Since that's what you think, why are you bothered by it? Do you think blind dating is unreliable?'*

*'Of course. Very few people going on blind dates are actually nice. I'll use some of the men my relatives have introduced as an example. They all looked pretty okay in their photos, but once I added them on WhatsApp. they immediately asked me for a makeup-free picture of myself. If I don't send it to them, I'm dishonest and look ugly without makeup.'*

*Victoria was rendered speechless by the strange thoughts those men had.*

*Does everyone you've met behave like that?'*

*Not really. All of them are weird in their own ways. Some will ask for a picture of you without makeup, and some are already asking how many children you want in the future.'*

*Victoria had no response to that.*

*She had never gone on blind dates before, so she didn't know that it resulted in strange experiences like those. Hearing about the ones Summer had met was enough to turn her off. Victoria had heard of strange things occurring on blind dates, but she hadn't really cared about them since she hadn't experienced them personally. However, after her best friend had experienced it, she now truly understood that these were all real.*

*'Victoria, it's not that I'm against blind dating. There are just too many weirdos doing it. Had they been extremely handsome but eccentric, I would've tolerated it since they are still nice to look at. The thing is, none of them are handsome and possess nice characters, yet they still behave like that. I will surely suffer if I ever marry one of them!'*

*As Summer's best friend, Victoria naturally didn't want Summer to marry someone like that, which might ruin her friend's life, so she quickly agreed with her.*

*'You're still unmarried anyway, so you can't be too hasty. Besides, it will affect your entire life. Just choose carefully, and don't pick someone weird. However, I do need to ask your opinion on something.'*

*Victoria told Summer about what Mary had relayed to her, which shocked Summer.*

*'Mrs. Cadogan wants to introduce someone to me?'*

*As Victoria had expected, Summer's first thought after knowing this was, 'Will someone Mrs. Cadogan introduce actually like someone with my family background?'*

*Chapter 567 Worked Herself to the Bone*

*Victoria naturally wanted her best friend to marry well and have a happy relationship, so she had no choice but to tell Summer the truth.*

*'I don't know. You have to talk to him and understand him yourself. I think he may be pretty good, or Mary*

*wouldn't have mentioned him.'*

*Victoria's recent interactions with Adrian and Mary had given her the feeling that they were a pretty reliable couple that would never mention something they weren't sure of. Anything they brought up should be pretty trustworthy.*

*Summer might have thought that Victoria's words made sense since she replied after a moment's hesitation,*

*'I think you're right. I may not know Mrs. Cadogan, but someone that she approves of may be quite outstanding and have a great character. I'm just worried that I'm not good enough.'*

*'Don't talk yourself down,' Victoria mentioned in order to encourage Summer. 'You're pretty amazing yourself. Besides, everyone has different tastes. How can you know if he likes you or not when you haven't met or known him yet?'*

*'Oh. You're right. Let me think about it since I'm far too annoyed right now.'*

*'Okay. Just tell me when you've decided. I'll help take a look at him then, and we won't introduce you two if he doesn't pass my standards.'*

*'Thanks, darling.'*

*'You're welcome.'*

*They exchanged affectionate words via WhatsApp, and Victoria couldn't help smiling by the end of it.*

*"You look very happy. What have you been talking about?" A deep voice suddenly spoke from above her, and before Victoria could react, her phone was stolen by Alaric.*

*“Give it back.” She instinctively tried to grab it.*

*Alaric raised her phone higher, refusing to let her take it back. “Why are you so reluctant to let me see anything? Are you chatting with another man?”*

*“No. I was chatting with Summer.”*

*“Well, is there anything I’m not allowed to see?”*

*Even so, he did not look through her chat history with Summer, knowing that women usually had some things*

*they wanted to discuss in private.*

*While he didn’t go that far, he didn’t return her phone either but tapped her nose with a finger. “Your conversation has distracted you, so I’m temporarily confiscating your phone.”*

*Alaric then slid her phone into his coat pocket.*

*She was so irritated that she wanted to pinch his waist, but she forced back the urge due to the presence of his parents. Lowering her voice, she grumbled, “Just give it back. We’re nearly done. I just want to say goodbye.”*

*After hearing her explanation, Alaric couldn’t just hold on to her phone. And so, he gave it back. “Just say goodbye and give it to me.”*

*Victoria had no comeback to that.*

*He might have returned her phone, but his comment annoyed her and made her mumble while pouting, “Why are you so forceful? You’re so...”*

*Even so, she quickly said goodbye to Summer and handed it to him. “Take it, then.”*

*His lips curved up slightly at how dejected she looked. “Just like that? Weren’t you reluctant to do it just now?”*

*“I’m reluctant to do it, but you were going to grab it anyway.” She could just give it to him instead of allowing*

*him to take it from her.*

*Victoria felt the tip of her nose being pinched as soon as she finished speaking.*

*“I was just playing around with you. Why are you taking it seriously?”*

*She swatted his hand away with irritation. “Who knows if you’re playing around with me?”*

*He did eventually keep her phone in his pocket. "I'll return it to you when we board the plane."*

*"Okay." She couldn't help rolling her eyes at him. "At least you do know that you have to return it. I thought that you would keep it until the flight was over."*

*"Hmm, that works too. You can't use your phone on the plane anyway, so I'll return it after we land."*

*Victoria was shocked and speechless at how shameless the man was. He's so... Never mind! I can't be bothered to argue with him.*

*She shut her eyes. There was still some time before boarding, and she hadn't slept well the previous night, so she intended to use the time to catch up on some sleep.*

*However, Alaric took her hand as he commented, "Sleep later."*

*She opened her eyes at that. "Why? Is there anything?"*

*Just as she finished speaking, she was pulled from her seat and right into his arms without any warning.*

*She heard him murmur from above her, "We still have plenty of time before boarding, so why don't I take you shopping?"*

*She was puzzled. "For what?"*

*"Didn't you mention that you didn't have enough lipsticks when we were packing last night?"*

*Victoria now remembered what had happened after his reminder. She had gone through her lipsticks while packing her luggage, just to find that many of them had expired. Worried that they might cause allergies, she got rid of the expired ones, leaving behind several unopened ones, which were brilliantly colored and more suited for grand events. They could strengthen her aura if she wore them at work, but they didn't seem suitable for spending the new year with her family.*

*Alaric had been helping her pack, so she hadn't thought too much about it and complained to him offhandedly. She had also said she didn't need to wear lipstick during the holiday. Since she hadn't taken the issue seriously, she wasn't concerned when Alaric hadn't answered her. She just hadn't expected him to suggest shopping for lipsticks now.*

*Recalling the event, she pursed her lips. She had thought of finding the time to buy some lipstick after they landed if they didn't have enough time, forgetting that the airport also had makeup stores where she could purchase lipstick as well.*

Mary had probably heard their conversation from beside them and had already spoken up when Victoria was busy thinking. "Go on. Buy anything you need before we have to board our flight."

Hearing this, Nicole insisted on following as well. "Daddy, Mommy, I want to go too!"

Before she could move, Mary had already pulled her back. "Don't run about, Nicole. They're going to buy makeup, and you cannot touch it for now."

It was not solely because Mary loved to be with her granddaughter. In truth, she wanted the girl to accompany her since she also wanted Alaric and Victoria to have more alone time. It was extremely romantic to have a man accompany his beloved when purchasing lipstick. Besides, he could also give some opinions and even have the chance to try some colors.

Mary was once young and had plenty of thoughts she shouldn't have possessed. She really had worked herself to the bone for the sake of their future happiness.

Chapter 568 It Caught Your Eye?

As expected, Nicole obediently nodded once she learned she was too young to apply makeup.

"All right. I'll stay here."

Mary waved her hand in dismissal at Alaric and Victoria. "Go ahead. Don't worry about Nicole and Nathan. I'll look after them."

Once Alaric and Victoria were out of sight, Nicole raised her head and looked at Mary.

"Grandma, can I use makeup when I grow up?"

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Mary flicked her granddaughter's nose in affection. Her voice and tone were gentle when she said, "Of course. You can dress up however you want when you grow up."

Mary's words reassured Nicole, who was already looking forward to such a promised future. "Grandma, you'll buy many cosmetics for me in the future, right?"

Almost every girl fantasized about buying a whole lot of cosmetics once they were older.

"Of course. I'd be glad to buy cosmetics for you. How do you like that, Nicole?"

The girl replied with a kiss on Mary's cheek.



*The airport was spacious.*

*Alaric and Victoria were an attractive couple. When the pair walked among the crowd, the people around them couldn't help but turn their heads in the pair's direction.*

*A girl couldn't help but take out her phone to film the couple.*

*Feeling the girl's gaze on her, Victoria whispered to Alaric, "Somebody is filming us."*

*At that, he followed her gaze and looked in the direction of the onlooker. True enough, a girl was filming them*

*with her phone.*

*Getting caught red-handed, the girl turned away in embarrassment.*

*Alaric glanced at her once before withdrawing his gaze. Since the pair didn't outrightly protest, the girl once*

*again pointed her phone at them.*

*Alaric shifted his attention back to Victoria. He lowered his head and asked, "Do you mind?"*

*She pursed her lips. "I don't mind it. What about you?"*

*After all, she wasn't some kind of celebrity. Besides, they were in public. Therefore, she had no qualms with a*

*stranger filming her.*

*However, just because she was fine with it didn't necessarily mean Alaric agreed with her.*

*To her surprise, he curled his lips and chuckled. "What a coincidence. I don't mind it either."*

*Victoria blinked a few times. Since both of them didn't mind having their pictures taken, she saw no point in stopping the others.*

*She looked in the girl's direction. Suddenly, the girl got all excited. Before Victoria could comprehend the sudden change in the girl's mood, she felt Alaric bend down. Then, he lowered his head and gave her a peck on*

*the lips.*

*The tender sensation and his hot breath surprised her..*

*When her senses returned, she raised her head, meeting his dark eyes in confusion. He knows they're taking pictures of us, yet he...*

*Locking eyes with her, Alaric smiled. "Since both of us don't mind, I feel like kissing you even though people are filming us."*

*Victoria was speechless upon hearing that. Well, I indeed don't mind them filming us. However, it doesn't mean I'm fine with them filming us kissing.*

*She involuntarily turned in the girl's direction again as the thought struck her.*

*This time, the girl wasn't paying attention to them. After she caught the scene—in which Alaric kissed Victoria—on her phone, she shared the video with her companion. The two were screaming in excitement as if the contents of the video thrilled them.*

*When Victoria saw that, she shook her head in resignation. Whatever! It's not a big deal. Besides, it seems like the girls mean no harm. They only took pictures of us because we looked like a good match, right?*

*Fortunately, Alaric aimed for the corner of her lips for a kiss earlier. Will I be okay if the video spreads around the web? Yeah, I will. I'm not ashamed if some strangers see it.*

*Victoria could tell Alaric was doing it on purpose. He only kissed her for show as he had discovered that somebody was filming them.*

*Once his intention became clear to her, Victoria stared at him in disbelief. "Who are you? A celebrity? What's the point of such a display of affection? We're just ordinary people. Even if she shares the video online, nobody is interested in watching it."*

*Alaric shrugged at that. "It doesn't matter. I don't care about the views. What matters most is that I get to see them."*

*Then, he let go of her waist and walked toward the girls. "Wait a moment."*

*Victoria initially wanted to follow him, but his words rooted her to the spot. Fine. I'll keep out of it and just wait here. I'm tired of walking around, anyway.*

*Therefore, she watched him walk away.*

*At first, the girls were looking at the phone in excitement. However, their smiles froze on their faces when they noticed Alaric was approaching them. The owner of the phone hid her phone behind her without a second thought.*

*A few seconds later, the girls realized that their behavior was improper. Therefore, once Alaric stood right before them, the pair handed the phone to him with dejected expressions.*

*Victoria watched them, and questions arose in her mind. Wasn't he putting on a public display of affection? Why is he approaching them? Is he trying to delete the video? If he's asking them to delete the video, he could've forbidden them from shooting a video from the very beginning. What does he want?*

*She wasn't near enough to hear their conversation, but she saw his lips move as he talked to the girls.*

*As he talked, smiles reappeared on the girls' faces. Their eyes were twinkling in wonderment, and they looked as if they couldn't believe their ears.*

*After that, Alaric took out his phone. The first girl talked to him as she looked down at her phone.*

*Victoria frowned slightly at the sight. She wasn't aware that she had pursed her lips into a thin line.*

*She was familiar with the scene. It was one where someone would hit on the other party on the streets. They would then exchange contact information.*

*Alaric and the girl are doing the same, no?*

*The unexpected kiss earlier gave Victoria butterflies. However, her mood immediately darkened as she looked at their interaction. A thunderous expression appeared on her face as her patience disappeared.*

*What is taking him so long? You know what? I'm not waiting for him any longer. I'll go get the lipstick myself.*

*At that, Victoria scanned her surroundings. There was a cosmetic store nearby. Ignoring Alaric's reminder, she*

*went over to the store.*

*She had no patience for the man anymore and decided to shop on her own.*

*There weren't many people in the store. Every staff member was attending to a certain customer at the*

moment, so they paid no mind to Victoria when she came inside. As for Victoria, she was fine with no attention

on her. She walked along, browsing through the lipsticks.

There were various colors of lipsticks to choose from these days. Even the same color scheme could develop

into different colors for different occasions.

Victoria followed some makeup influencers on TikTok. When her gaze landed on one of the lipsticks, she

recalled the influencer's remark on it, which said such color could charm a guy easily.

It had a rosy tint to it.

She zoned out as she looked at the lipstick. At that moment, a low voice interrupted her thoughts.

"It caught your eye?"

First Top-UP

Chapter 569 You're Adorable

The voice snapped Victoria out of her trance. Turning in the direction of the voice, she immediately locked eyes with Alaric.

"I thought I told you to wait for me. Why did you come here all alone?"

Her lips moved, the words almost leaving her. However, she recalled his interaction with the girl, and the thought stung her more than she admitted. At that, she bit back her words. She paid him no mind as she walked farther into the store.

Alaric was watching her with a smile. Thinking that she was interested in that lipstick, he reached to pick it up from the organizer. However, he didn't expect to receive the cold shoulder from her.

She seems upset. Alaric paused. He was deep in thought as he watched her walk away. Did my words offend her?

He collected himself and kept up with her. "Are you sure you don't want it? I think the color suits you."

*Victoria didn't expect Alaric to talk about the lipstick when he caught up with her, so she frowned. It seems like the makeup influencers aren't making up the magical effect of charming a guy. There's a reason they said the same thing about this color. But the theory isn't fully applicable to him.*

*After a moment of hesitation, she stopped in her tracks and shot him a question. "What's your opinion?"*

*Alaric didn't think too much about it as he replied, "I like it. You told me you can't wear other colors for daily occasions, but this one is similar to the color of your lips. You might like it."*

*His eyes flicked downward as he expressed his opinion, his gaze resting on her lips.*

*Victoria was physically weak a while ago, so her lips were pale at that time. However, she had gotten better recently due to positive thinking, which then increased her appetite. Therefore, her lips returned to their original rosy color. Her ivory skin only accentuated her juicy lips.*

*Meanwhile, Victoria had no idea about his thoughts. His behavior earlier troubled her until now. Thus, she snapped right after getting his answer, "Oh, you like it? Then buy one for yourself."*

*She didn't wait for his response. After that, she simply walked away.*

*Alaric might be insensitive sometimes, but after receiving the cold shoulder for the second time, he realized something was wrong.*

*He stood there and hesitated for a moment. Then, he turned around and picked up the lipstick she had her eye on earlier and went after her.*

*He walked fast, so he caught up with her and grabbed her wrist. "Are you upset?"*

*He tightened his hold on her wrist, and the sensation caused her to frown. "No."*

*Even though Victoria denied it, she swatted his hand away.*

*Alaric stared at his arm in surprise.*

*A moment of silence later, he began, "You literally swatted my hand away. Are you sure you aren't upset?"*

*"Am?" She sneered. "What am I upset about?"*

*Her question put him in deep thought. "Is it because I kissed you in public?"*

*His question made her speechless.*

*The two were in a romantic relationship, and they had done more than kissing and hugging. There was no way she would get angry with him over a kiss.*

*What kind of dumb question is this? A speechless Victoria didn't bother to answer him.*

*Alaric couldn't help but sigh because she refused to give him a straight answer. Even more, it seemed that she*

*was upset.*

*He tried to recall but failed to remember any gesture he had done that would infuriate her, other than kissing her in public.*

*As such, he had no choice but to follow suit when she turned on her heel. He asked patiently, "What's wrong?"*

*Alaric had no inkling as to why Victoria was in a bad mood. Therefore, he tried to reflect on himself. When reflecting on himself proved to be a useless attempt, he tried to see things from a different angle*

*As such, he asked, "Are you not feeling well due to not sleeping well last night?"*

*"Do you want to sit down for a while? We have been walking for too long."*

*"How about this? You don't need to waste your time choosing the one you like. I'll buy all of them for you, and*

*we can head back to rest."*

*"Victoria?"*

*"Snowball?"*

*As Victoria browsed the lipsticks, Alaric stood by her side and shot her questions. At last, she turned to look at him. She was met by the anxious look on his face.*

*Pursing her lips, she shot him a confused look.*

*He sounds concerned, as if he's worried that I'm upset with him. Did I misunderstand something? But I saw it!*

*At that, she took a deep breath before turning to him. "Why did you approach the girls?"*

*After being ignored for a long time, Alaric eagerly fell into step with her when she finally talked to him.*

*“What? Didn’t you see what happened? I asked them-”*

*His explanation was cut short when she held out her palm toward him. “Give me your phone.”*

*He put his phone in her hand without a second thought.*

*Victoria turned on the phone, but a screen lock denied her further access. Before she could ask, Alaric began, “The password is your birthday.”*

*My birthday?*

*After pondering, she entered a bunch of numbers and unlocked the phone.*

*The thought of him using her birthday as his pin pleased her. She had to admit she was less upset with him.*

*She went to WhatsApp, trying to find a stranger in his recent conversation. Much to her surprise, he pinned the chat with her on the top. She was also familiar with the other contacts because they were family members.*

*Truth be told, there wasn’t anything interesting in his WhatsApp.*

*It doesn’t mean anything. Scrunching her nose, she tapped on his contact list.*

*She swiped the screen. However, Alaric only had a handful of friends. Soon, she reached the bottom of his*

*friend list.*

*She studied his friend list from top to bottom again and again but couldn’t find a stranger’s face as expected..*

*Alaric’s eyes were fixed on the phone the whole time. He watched Victoria tap on his phone and swipe the screen up and down. He found her behavior strange, so he asked, “What are you looking for, Snowball?”*

*Paying no attention to his question, she curtly questioned, “Where’s your new friend?”*

*Her answer took him aback. “New friend?”*

*The confusion in his tone was genuine. Victoria raised her head and met his dark eyes. She said gruffly, “You exchanged contact details with the girls, didn’t you?”*

*Her words cleared up some confusion. Therefore, he immediately answered, “Yes.”*

*I knew it! Victoria couldn’t help but grit her teeth.*

*“Well, where are your new friends?”*

*He arched his brows at the sight of her puffed cheeks. “I deleted it.”*

*Realization dawned on him. That’s the reason for the sudden change in her mood, huh?*

*The fact that she refused to tell him the reason she got upset frustrated him. But now, her reaction shed light on the matter. As the reason for her sour mood became clear to him, he couldn’t help but curl his lips. His smile only grew wider and wider. At last, he wrapped his hands around her shoulders, barely refraining from*

*chuckling.*

*“Snowball, don’t tell me you’re angry because you thought I exchanged numbers with the other girls, hmm?”*

*Victoria didn’t answer.*

*He pinched her cheeks. “You’re adorable, but don’t bottle up your feelings, alright? Share them with me.”*

*First Top–UP*

*PREVIOUS*

*Bonus Reached*

*NEXT*

*100 Bonus*

*Chapter 570 Beauty Is in the Eyes of the Beholder*

*Since the matter was unresolved, Victoria couldn’t stand Alaric touching her. She swatted his hand away and said, “Don’t touch me.”*

*However, not only did Alaric put his hand where it was, he even bent down and placed his hand behind her neck. “Alright. I did get that girl’s number, but I’ve already deleted it,” he whispered.*

*“Why did you delete her contact when you’ve already added her?”*

*“Well, how was I supposed to get the video if I don’t have her number?”*

*“What video?”*



*“Why don’t you take a guess?” asked Alaric.*

*At his question, Victoria remained silent. After some time, she realized the video he was talking about was*

*when the girl had secretly recorded Alaric kissing her. However, she didn’t realize it when she saw them exchanging numbers. He was just asking for the video, yet I...*

*As Victoria thought about how she had gotten mad at Alaric, she felt guilty.*

*“Why? Did you think I asked for her WhatsApp?” Alaric bopped her on the nose. “That won’t happen when I would sacrifice myself for you. Why would I cause trouble by getting that girl’s number for no reason?”*

*If someone else had told Victoria they would sacrifice themselves for her, she would only think of it as a joke. However, after Alaric had risked everything to save her, she knew he was telling the truth. Thus, she couldn’t say anything about it and was even touched as she remembered what had happened.*

*“I’m sorry for misunderstanding you,” she whispered.*

*Initially, Alaric felt that Victoria looked cute when she was jealous. From his perspective, only if she cared about*

*him would she be jealous, and it made him happy that she did. However, he didn’t want her to apologize. Hence, he panicked when he heard her apology. “Silly girl. Why are you apologizing when this signifies that you care for me? I’m happy that you’re jealous about this.”*

*After hearing his words, Victoria blinked and said, “I misunderstood and scolded you. I should be apologizing for my behavior.”*

*“No.” Alaric refused. “You don’t have to apologize for anything you do. If any of us is in the wrong, it would be...” Me. I owe you a lot of things that I can’t make up for, thought Alaric. He wanted Victoria to vent her emotions to him. He wanted her to be mean and unreasonable so that he could comfort her.*

*However, after hearing his words, Victoria was curious. “Who would it be?”*

*Alaric snapped back to his senses and shook his head. “It’s nothing. Are you still mad at me?”*

*Victoria wouldn’t be mad since it was just a misunderstanding. Thus, she said nothing.*

*“Since you’re not angry anymore, why don’t we continue looking at these lipsticks?” As he spoke, he passed Victoria the lipstick she had first laid eyes on.*

Victoria was surprised when she saw the lipstick. She never expected him to pick that shade when she only took one look at it. "Do you like this shade?"

"I told you this shade looks similar to your lips didn't I? It'd be perfect for daily use." Alaric chuckled.

Why would I use it if it's similar to the color of my lips?"

At her words, Alaric was startled as he hadn't thought about that. "You have a point. Why should you get this shade when it's already similar to the color of your lips? Should I put it back, then?"

"It's fine. Since you've already taken it, I might as well pick another shade or two."

As Victoria went through the lipstick, she asked softly, "So... Did you delete her number after she sent you the video?"

Alaric nodded without hesitation. "Of course. Why would I keep it? To talk to her and make you mad?"

She felt guilty when she heard his answer. "Well, I misunderstood the situation, okay? I'm not angry now. Why do you keep bringing it up?"

"Can't I even talk about it? After all, it's rare to see you getting jealous because of me."

Victoria didn't know what to say and sighed. "Wouldn't it be impolite for you to delete her number all of a sudden?"

"Say, Snowball, don't you think you're getting ahead of yourself? If I didn't delete her number, you would have been angrier than before when you checked my phone." As Alaric spoke, he didn't give her a chance to speak and patted her shoulder as he continued,

"Relax. I told her that I was married when we exchanged our numbers. I even told her I would delete her number after she sent me the video since you would be mad."

Does that mean they were talking about this when I saw them together? thought Victoria as she blinked and asked, "Where is the video?"

"Do you want to see it?" Alaric opened his phone and clicked on the video that he had saved.

Although it was a far shot, Victoria could still see their expressions clearly. Through the video, she could see how lovingly Alaric was looking at her. Usually, she never felt anything when she saw his gaze. She only realized what kind of look Alaric was giving her when she saw the video.

*Victoria did not watch dramas, but she had seen clips of different shows since it was widely available online. Thus, images of those scenes came to mind when she saw the video.*

*“By the way, the girl asked me a question after she sent me the video.”*

*“What did she say?”*

*“She asked if it was okay for her to post the video online.”*

*“Did you say yes?” Victoria pursed her lips.*

*“What do you think? Should I have said yes or no?”*

*At his question, Victoria raised her eyebrow and said, “Suit yourself.”*

*After all, it was just a video of them expressing their love. She didn’t mind if the video was posted on the internet.*

*After Victoria spoke, she became curious when she heard nothing from Alaric. “What exactly did you tell her?”*

*“It looks like someone’s curious.” Alaric looked at her with a smile. He ruffled her hair and said softly, “I allowed*

*her to post it online. We are not some kind of superstars after all ”*

*Victoria huffed gently and said nothing.*

*“Are you done?”*

*“Yeah. Almost.”*

*Victoria had already picked out a few lipsticks while talking to him, and she immediately handed them over when Alaric asked for them.*

*“These will do.”*

*Suddenly, Alaric asked, “Don’t you have to try them out?”*

*“How do you know that?” Victoria looked at him with surprise.*

*“Well, I’ve heard about it.”*

*“There’s no need for that since they’re pretty basic shades. You can’t go wrong with these.”*

*Hearing her words, Alaric looked at her. Since her skin was fair and white, any shade would suit her. At least, this was what he thought since beauty was in the eyes of the beholder.*

*First Top-UP*

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