

Departure with a Belly Chapter 181

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B

Most importantly, she felt that her father had been alone for too long now. Now that he finally met someone who had mutual feelings for him, it would be too cruel of her to break them up.

Furthermore, the woman was very upfront about it too.

After knowing that she found out about the relationship, the woman approached her and cautiously said to her, "Miss Selwyn, your father told me a little bit about your family. I know your family situation's different from a regular family. I swear that I'm not in a relationship with your father out of greed. If you don't trust me, I'm willing to sign an agreement to guarantee that I won't take anything from the Selwyns. It'll just be an agreement between the two of us. No one else will know about it."

"An agreement, huh? Alright. Let's do it."

Thus, Victoria had Bane's lawyers prepare an agreement for her and got the woman to sign it.

Sure enough, the woman was prepared to sign the agreement without even reading the terms first.

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Victoria stopped her.

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"Were you planning on signing without even reading it first? Aren't you afraid that I might've set a trap for you?"

The woman smiled bashfully. "Tony's a good man and you're his daughter. I'm sure you won't harm me."

Victoria was won over by the woman's graciousness. She didn't want to hurt her father, so in the end, she decided against getting the agreement signed.

The woman was flustered to see Victoria taking back the agreement.

“Miss Selwyn? Why aren’t we signing it? Are you disapproving of my relationship with Tony?”

“That’s not it.” Victoria looked straight at the woman and smiled faintly. “You can just call me Victoria. You shouldn’t be so formal with me if you plan on continuing your relationship with my father. Also, the next time you sign something, remember to read through it carefully. Don’t do what you did today. You’d be an easy target for those w**e trying to trick you.”

As a daughter, she had her own reasons for having the lawyers draw up the
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agreement.

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She came from a single-parent family. Her father was the only family she had apart from her children, so she had to test the person who wanted to get involved with him.

Now that Tony was embarking on a new relationship, Victoria moved out of the house. She bought a place that was just big enough for her and her two children. When the trio returned to Selwyn Residence, the s***ts quickly came out to greet them and picked up the two children.

“You’re back, Miss Selwyn. Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn were just talking about you.”

“Where are they?”

“They just finished dinner and are resting right now.”

As soon as the s***t responded, someone appeared in the hallway behind the door.

“Victoria.”

“Oh. Mrs. Selwyn’s here,” the s* said.***

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Victoria looked over and saw Sasha Floyd, her father’s new wife.

Sasha was looking brightly at Victoria and she quickly came over.

“Hi, Grandma!”

When she reached them, Nicole was the first to greet her. Nicole then stretched out her arms for a hug.

“My dear Nicole. Come and give Grandma a hug.”

Sasha took Nicole from the servant's arms, and once she did, she couldn't bear to put her down again. She could see just how well Victoria was taking care of the children.

Not only was Nicole nice and soft to cuddle with, but she also had a faint scent of milk that made Sasha feel like she was holding a squishy bundle of milk pudding.

"Look at you! How on earth are you this adorable, hm?"

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Both the kids were extremely attractive. They had good genes. However, as Victoria's married life was rather tumultuous, Sasha didn't want to bring up any topic that was related to the children's father.

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Now that Sasha had Nicole in her arms, she went over and nudged Nathan's cheek to make sure she gave him just as much attention. Then, she turned to Victoria and said, "It's chilly outside. Let's go in."

"Sure."

Victoria followed Sasha into the house.

"Your father just went upstairs to take a shower," Sasha informed. "I keep telling him not to take a shower immediately after a meal, but he just won't listen."

Her grumbling made Victoria smile.

"You must have a hard time taking care of Dad, Sasha."

At this, Sasha immediately defended Tony.

"Not at all. Your father does a lot of things by himself. I feel like he's the one taking care of me."

"It's good that the two of you look out for each other."

Sasha glanced at Victoria and gave her a shy smile before setting Nicole down.

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"I'll go upstairs and tell your father to hurry up."

"It's fine, Sasha. We're not in a rush today."

Sasha's eyes

lit up at once. "Do you plan on staying over tonight?"

Victoria turned to Nicole and Nathan. "Grandma is asking whether you want to stay

here tonight, so how about it?"

"I do!" Nicole immediately hugged Sasha's legs. "I want to sleep with you tonight, Grandma." She stuck out a tiny finger and said, "One last night."

Sasha was pretty happy at first, but after hearing Nicole's last comment, she froze.

"L-Last night? What do you mean?"

"Nicole, you should be more careful when you speak. You scared Grandma," Victoria chided.

Nicole tilted her head to the side in confusion. "Mommy?"

Victoria poked Nicole on the nose. "What you meant to say is our last night before we head back to our home country."

"Oh." Nicole instantly put her lesson to use. "Grandma, what I meant is our last night
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before we head back to our home country."

Sasha realized what was happening. She looked at Victoria in shock. "You're heading back? When?"

"Yeah. We'll be leaving in a few days."

"Why are you heading back all of a sudden? Your father never mentioned it to me."

"We came over today to tell him about this."

At last, Sasha had the full picture. She didn't press further.

Tony was startled to hear that Victoria wanted to head back and start her own company.

"Snowball, why do you want to head back and start a new company when things have been fine all along? If you want to run a company, I can always retire and hand the reins over to you."

□

Victoria was stunned into silence. After a brief pause, she explained, "Dad, you finally managed to build up your company after putting in all that hard work. How

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can you just hand it to me like that?"

"Why not? What's mine is yours."

The father-daughter duo was in the study right now. There was no one else but the two of them around-the two who had no one but each other to depend on all these

years.

Therefore, Tony openly expressed himself. "Why do you think I started a company? Isn't it all because I want to make sure you can have a good life? Sooner or later, the company will go to you. Although I married Sasha, I told her from the start that everything I have will go to you. When I die, I'll leave her a bit of the company shares -just enough to cover her living expenses. After all, she did marry me. I should provide for her too."

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Victoria never thought about getting Tony to leave everything to her.

Nevertheless, the fact that he was leaving the entire company to her touched her deeply.

"That's why you shouldn't head back. You should stay here and help me with the company."

Although Victoria was moved, she raised her eyebrows and said, "I'm afraid I can't." Tony was confused.

"Why not? Snowball, it'll be very hard on you to raise two kids and start a company at the same time."

"I know it'll be tiring, but it'll give me a great sense of accomplishment too. I want to start my own company, Dad."

She wanted to give her children a good life herself.

Victoria didn't know other people's views on parenting, but when it came to her, she figured that since she was now a mother and had the means of providing a better

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life for her children, why shouldn't she work hard and do so?

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With that thought in mind, Victoria walked over to her father and hugged his arm the way she did when she was a child. "Most importantly, Dad, your company's doing very well right now, so I have a safety net. Even if I fail, I have nothing to worry about because I know you'll be there to back me up."

Tony's heart melted.

As Victoria's father, he was her rock and support. She would probably face hardships, but he wanted her to know that he would always be a safe harbor she could return to.

As long as she had a safety net, she would never have to be afraid of failure.

At long last, Tony sighed. "Starting a company is hard work, Snowball."

Victoria had been waiting for him to say this all along. After hearing this, she couldn't help but laugh.

"I'm not scared of hard work, Dad."

She realized it was true that a mother would be strong enough to do anything for

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the sake of her children. Everything that she didn't want to do or was afraid to do was no longer an issue for her once she became a mother.

"No matter what happens, Snowball, remember this. I'm your father, and if you ever run into any difficulties, you must give me a call."

"I know, Dad."

A few days later, the family went to the airport together.

Tony and Sasha reluctantly said their goodbyes to Victoria and the two children.

"When you're back there, remember to take good care of yourself."

"I will."

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"It won't be easy for you to look after the two children by yourself. It's best if you hire a trustworthy nanny."

Victoria took note of all her father's advice.

"Alright. I'll look into that as soon as I settle down."

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Once Tony was done, it was Sasha's turn.

Victoria patiently took everything in.

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Once the two older ones finished saying all they wanted to say, Summer came over with reddened eyes.

"It has been five years since we last parted. I didn't think I'd have to say goodbye to you again. Don't worry, Victoria. Once I resign from my job here, I'll come over and help you."

"Don't be silly. Why would you want to leave such a good job? You might not be able to find another suitable position again."

"Oh, please. What do you mean it's a good job? I'm so busy that I can't even get a boyfriend."

Then, Summer noticed something. "By the way, why isn't Bane here? Does he not plan on heading back with you?"

"An urgent matter came up so he can't leave with us."

"An urgent matter?" Summer scoffed quietly, "Is there anything more important to

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him than you three? That's a miracle."

"Hey, now. Don't speak so carelessly."

"Well, he's not too bad. Even though he can't come with you, he left you his best subordinate."

Summer glanced at Ethan who was standing nearby with his luggage in tow.

Ethan caught her gaze and quickly smiled and nodded.

"Yeah. Mr. Hudson is heading back because he has urgent matters to attend to as well."

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Summer didn't tease Victoria this time. She simply hugged her and said, "Remember to call me when you get there. I'll come and look for you soon."

"Yes, yes. You told me a thousand times already. I got it."

All of a sudden, Nicole, who was still in Sasha's arms, called out, "Mommy, I want to use the restroom."

"Grandma will take you."

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"I'll take her, Sasha."

Victoria passed her luggage to Ethan for safekeeping before taking Nicole into her arms.

Then, she looked at Nathan. "Nathan, do you want to use the restroom?"

Nathan thought about it and nodded.

"Come on then. I'll take them to the restroom."

Summer quickly said, "Sure. I'll line up at the security check for you. It's right over there."

"Okay."

Tony, Sasha, and Summer were just enough to help save a spot for Victoria and the two children.

Victoria and her two kids went to the restroom nearest to them.

As Nathan had to use a different restroom, Victoria didn't follow either of her children in. Instead, she stood outside and explained to them what they needed to do.

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do.

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Once they understood everything, she let them enter the restrooms on their own.

"If you're not sure how to use something, just ask someone, okay? Remember to wash your hands when you're done. I'll be waiting for you right here, okay?"

The two children nodded obediently before entering the respective washrooms.

Victoria waited for them outside.

As soon as Nicole entered the women's restroom, a loud exclaim

"Oh, my! What an adorable little girl!"

Victoria couldn't help but smile at the praise. rang out.

The airport at the capital had large restrooms that were well taken care of. The janitors came over to tidy things up rather frequently.

When Nathan opened the door, he saw a man in a black suit who was on the phone.

Even his side profile was handsome. His cold gaze and thin lips made him look rather stern and he gave off a chilly aura.

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The person on the phone said something that made the man sneer.

Nathan blinked and walked further down the corridor. He had to open another door to reach the restroom.

The door creaked as he pushed it, but he only managed to create a tiny gap.

Nathan was only five. He wasn't strong enough yet, so he had to try and push with all his might.

The creaking sound echoed in the empty corridor.

Alaric frowned at the noise. He turned around to see where it was coming from.

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He didn't see anyone, but the door was still creaking. His gaze lowered and he finally saw the young boy who was doing his best to open the door.

Alaric's brows furrowed even more.

Whose child is this? Why did he come to the restroom alone?

Alaric was an aloof man who didn't like to get involved with other people's matters, even children.

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Yet, at this moment, his body moved before his mind could keep up. His hand was already pressing against the door to help the little boy before he even processed what was happening.

"Mr. Cadogan."

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Just then, he heard someone calling his name over the phone, so he carried on with his conversation with his hand against the door.

Nathan, who had been doing his best to open the door this whole time, was startled when the door finally moved easily. He looked up and saw the large hand holding the door open.

He immediately thanked the person.

"Thanks, mister."

The somewhat familiar-sounding voice made Alaric pause.

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A few seconds later, Alaric looked back down, but there was no sign of the little boy he had seen earlier. As it was, the little boy had shuffled off into the restroom after thanking Alaric and was currently in one of the stalls.

Alaric pursed his lips and frowned.

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He couldn't concentrate on what the person was saying on the phone. Was it just an illusion?

Was he starting to miss the two children who announced they were taking a break from their live streams? Was that why he thought he heard the voice of the little boy named Nathan?

"Mr. Cadogan, I have a few other thoughts regarding this collaboration. Why don't we set a time to-"

"Did you hear something just now?" Alaric cut in before the person on the phone could finish his sentence.

The person was startled by the abrupt interruption.

"Huh?"

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"Did you hear something coming from my side?"

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If it hadn't been an illusion, the person he was on the call with should have heard the boy thanking him too.

Meanwhile, his business contact couldn't quite understand what Alaric meant, but he recalled hearing that Alaric didn't like noise.

I did hear some unpleasant sounds earlier, but can I really tell him about it straight to his face?

In the end, the person decided not to tell the truth.

"I don't think I heard anything, Mr. Cadogan. Did something happen on your end?" he asked tentatively as if nothing happened.

Alaric narrowed his eyes and stared at his hand which was still pressed against the

door.

Was it truly just an illusion?

He didn't have the time to dwell on this as Terrance came running over and huffed breathlessly, "I have the documents you asked for, Mr. Cadogan."

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Alaric glanced at him in displeasure.

Terrance straightened up and pressed his lips together.

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After a while, he suggested, "Shall we get past the security check first? There's a cafe on the other side. It's rather inconvenient for you to discuss work matters here."

Alaric's business contact immediately seconded the idea. "That's a good idea, Mr. Cadogan. If this is an inconvenient time for you, let's hold off on our discussion for a little while until you get through the security check."

Alaric mulled it over for a second before nodding and ending the call. He then walked off with a grim expression.

Terrance quickly followed close behind.

There were a lot of people passing through outside the restroom. As Terrance tailed behind a stern-looking Alaric, his eyes were subconsciously drawn to a specific spot.

He was a little dismayed. As he was heading over to the restroom earlier, he saw a woman whose attractive figure was prominently visible despite her simple get-up.

Just the view of her from behind made his heart skip a beat.

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Unfortunately for him, the woman had her back toward him earlier, and he was too much of a coward to go around to take a peek at the woman's face.

He planned on taking a closer look when he came back out, but in that short amount of time, she had left.

Oh, well. Terrance figured he wasn't the type who would get so lucky.

Meanwhile, Summer was clutching her bag as she dashed through the crowd and headed for the restroom.

When she was about to reach the restroom, she started breaking out into a smile, but the handsome and aloof face she spotted made her come to an abrupt halt. She immediately turned around.

"Wait for me, Mr. Cadogan!"

Once the two men had walked past Summer, she finally looked up and watched their retreating backs.

Her eyes widened with shock. That was... Alaric Cadogan, right?

Alaric Cadogan!

4/9

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She didn't think she would run into him at the airport after all these years.

If I'm not mistaken... he came from the restroom, didn't he?

In that case...

Shoot!

"Victoria!"

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Summer sprinted toward the restroom. While she was standing in line earlier, it suddenly occurred to her that Nathan was a boy and Victoria wouldn't have brought him into the women's restroom, and neither would she have followed Nathan into the men's restroom either, so it would be rather inconvenient for her to look after the two children.

Thus, Summer came over to see if she could help out.

She didn't expect to run into Alaric.

It had been ages since she last saw him.

After five years, Alaric seemed to have become a lot more solemn. At the same time, his aura became even colder and more dominant.

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Just a fleeting glance from a distance was enough for Summer to sense the chilly aura that emanated from deep within him.

His features had also become even sharper and more refined than before.

That was how Summer was able to instantly spot him in the crowd.

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He's handsome, alright! It's not surprising that Victoria fell in love with him back then, and still hasn't gotten over him yet after all these years.

Summer would've fallen in love with him for his looks too if he hadn't been the man her friend had feelings for.

Once Summer got to the restroom, she saw Victoria coming out with Nicole.

She rushed forward and called out while huffing, "Victoria!"

"Summer?" Victoria was a little puzzled.

"Why did you come over?"

Thanks to her running and her nervousness, Summer was still trying to catch her breath. "I thought it'd be difficult for you to handle both kids, so I came to help. How are you? Are you okay?"

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Summer scrutinized Victoria from top to bottom and even circled her twice.

Victoria was confused. She didn't know what was going on.

"Where's Nathan?"

Victoria handed Nicole over to Summer and waited outside the men's restroom.

Earlier on, Nicole had come running back out for her so she had to enter the women's restroom, but it had only been for a moment so she figured that Nathan wouldn't have come out yet.

True enough, after a minute or so, she saw a tiny silhouette.

"Mommy."

Victoria brought the two kids out to the common area and washed their hands for them.

She was focused and delicate with the task. It didn't seem like she had been affected by anything.

Summer saw that Victoria seemed perfectly normal, but she had to be sure, so she asked, "You're really fine, right, Victoria?"

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Is she just putting up a brave front?

Victoria wiped the children's hands dry before turning to look at Summer.

"Why wouldn't I be fine? What's up with you today?"

"Oh. It's nothing. What I mean is, did you see anyone strange in the restroom?"

"Someone strange?" Victoria narrowed her eyes. "What counts as strange?"

Victoria's response made Summer's heart settle back down again.

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She was worried that Victoria was secretly upset, but the latter's calm didn't seem to be just for show.

She probably didn't run into Alaric.

Though Summer didn't understand how the two could've possibly missed each other inside such a small restroom area, that was just how fate worked sometimes.

Even though two people were in the same place, they could still walk past each other without ever knowing that the other was right there too.

If I hadn't seen Alaric, perhaps Victoria would never know that she and Alaric ended

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up at the same airport today.

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Since she would never know, there's no reason for me to tell her.

It's nothing more than an ill-fated relationship that has already ended anyway.

Victoria deserves a better man.

With that in mind, Summer composed herself, smiled, and jokingly said, "Yeah. You know, maybe someone with a dog or perhaps a panhandler."

Victoria was non plussed. "Are you okay? Pets aren't allowed inside this airport, and panhandlers wouldn't come in either."

"You're right. Well, I guess I'm just a little out of it because you're leaving. Why don't you stay?"

Victoria rolled her eyes and ignored Summer's nonsense.

She bent down to adjust her children's clothes and heard Nathan saying, "Mommy, I ran into a handsome man at the restroom just now. He helped me with the door."

Victoria didn't know whom Nathan had run into, so she simply asked, "I see. Did you thank the man, Nathan?"

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"I did, Mommy."

"Then you're a polite little boy." Victoria kissed his forehead.

Nathan beamed with pride.

Nicole immediately scooted over too.

"I want a kiss too, Mommy."

Summer observed the family of three with envy.

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If she could, she wanted to have a child of her own without the need for a man, just like Victoria.

Once they were done, they went back to the security checkpoint,

"We wanted to line up for you, but Mr. Hudson said it wasn't necessary because

you're flying first class, so you can head straight to the dedicated lane later. It slipped my mind just now."

"Oh. Alright."

Once Victoria came back, the others watched as they went through the security

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check.

When it was over, Summer waved to them with a look of melancholy.

"Wait for me, Victoria! I'll come and find you!"

However, as she watched Victoria walk away, a thought occurred to her and her smile slowly faded.

Oh, no!

Why did I forget such an important detail?!

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If I ran into Alaric at the airport just now, there's a high chance it means he's heading back too. Could they be on the same flight?!

A businessman like Alaric would fly first class. If they all end up on the same flight....

I can scarcely allow myself to consider what would happen!

It wouldn't be such a big deal if it were just Alaric and Victoria, but Victoria has the kids with her.

Even though it might've escaped other people's attention, Summer could clearly tell that the kids shared a close resemblance to Alaric, especially Nathan.

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After all, his genes were involved in their making.

Perhaps Alaric might not recognize them, but what about the people around him?

Summer swiftly grabbed her phone to call Victoria.

However, as she was just about to press the call button, she paused and thought, What if they're not on the same flight?

Wouldn't I just be making Victoria worry for nothing if I told her about this only for them to not be on the same flight after all?

Who's to say that Alaric's heading back anyway?

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Maybe he's flying off to some other country, and even if he's heading back, he would be flying back to Gandra while Victoria and Mr. Hudson are heading to Jasea.

Victoria was attending a charity auction right after her return to the country.

The auction was being held in Jasea, so to avoid needing to make any transfers, they bought flight tickets straight to Jasea.

After calmly considering all possibilities, Summer was no longer quite so anxious.

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At the recollection of her initial reaction, she began to chide herself for being so easily flustered.

I should learn to keep my cool next time.

"What's the matter, Summer?"

Tony and Sasha had walked off for a while now, but after turning around to find that Summer hadn't moved at all, they paused in their footsteps and looked at her.

Their voices drew Summer back to reality. She smiled at them.

“Are you having a hard time letting Victoria go? Well, she’s only a plane ride away. You don’t have to feel too sad about it.”

Sasha came over to comfort Summer.

“I know, Mrs. Selwyn. I’ll be sure to go and see her when I miss her.”

“Let’s go.”

As they were leaving, Summer couldn’t help but turn around and take one last look at the security checkpoint.

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Please don’t let Victoria run into Alaric.

Let their ill-fated meeting be like ships passing in the night never to be seen again; let them miss each other the way they did at the restroom earlier.

After getting past the security checkpoint, Victoria carried on walking while holding onto her children’s hands. She didn’t need to bother with the luggage.

That was because as soon as they were done with the security check, Ethan said to her, “Give everything to me, Miss Selwyn. I’ll take the luggage.”..

“It’s fine, Mr. Hudson. We have a lot of things with us. You won’t be able to take everything. I’ll do it.”

“Just leave them to me, Miss Selwyn. Mr. Morison instructed me to accompany you back so that I can wait on you hand and foot. He will surely cut my pay if I don’t do a good job of taking care of you.”

Since he put it that way, Victoria felt as if she couldn’t refuse his help.

She sighed to herself and passed the luggage to Ethan. As a result, she and the two children didn’t have to carry anything with them.

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They walked ahead while Ethan did as he said and waited on them like a porter.

It wasn’t as bad when Victoria was looking up ahead.

But, when she looked behind her, she felt as if she were taking advantage of him.

Even if he’s helping me with the luggage, I shouldn’t have handed everything off to him.

In the end, Victoria slowed down, and when Ethan came up beside her, she wanted to offer to share the load with him. However, Ethan beat her to it and said, “Miss Selwyn, please don’t refuse me the chance to wait on you, and don’t think it’s hard for me to handle all the luggage by myself either. My life will be ten thousand times harder if I don’t get my bonus at the end of the year.”

“He’s not here right now. You can always just lie to him when you report back to him,” Victoria suggested.

However, Ethan’s eyes widened as he stared at her in disbelief.

“I won’t be able to sleep at night if I had to lie my way into receiving a bonus, Miss. Selwyn.”

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Victoria was dumbfounded.

She didn’t know what to say.

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Well, this matter pertained to his year-end bonus, and Victoria didn’t want to be the

reason why he failed to get one.

Therefore, she didn't press the issue.

They were walking past a dessert cafe when Nicole said, "Mommy, I want ice cream."

Victoria paused for a moment before denying the request. "It's winter right now. Having cold foods is bad for your health."

"But, Mommy... I want some."

Nicole was a little foodie who wanted to eat anything she laid her eyes on.

Even if her request was denied, she didn't mind. She would immediately request a different kind of food instead.

She figured that as long as she asked to have a large enough variety of food, her mother was bound to agree to let her have one of them.

Unfortunately for her, she was five now and Victoria had a good read on her.

Therefore, as soon as she tried to use her same old tactic, Victoria gave a hard refusal.

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"No, Nicole. You can have something when we get on the plane. The friendly air stewardesses will give us something to drink."

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Nicole licked her lips. The gluttonous side of her was still unsatisfied.

Since her mother denied her request, she had to distract herself with thoughts about the snacks she would get when they boarded the plane.

Nevertheless, she stared pitifully at the large posters pasted by the door to the cafe.

Ethan's heart melted from how adorable Nicole was. He had the urge to give her anything she wanted.

"Children enjoy these things a lot, Miss Selwyn. Why don't I get something for the two of them?"

Victoria smiled faintly. "You're here to wait on us, right, Mr. Hudson? Why don't we get you something in return for all your hard work?"

"Well... it's fine. I don't need anything, Ethan said after a pause.

"By the way, Mr. Hudson, you don't have to treat me like I'm still a manager at the company. I'm not anymore."

Ethan thought about it and nodded. "Understood, Miss Selwyn."

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The group continued making their way forward.

B

Just then, Victoria felt her phone beep with a notification, so she took it out and saw a text from Bane.

'How are things? Have you gotten past the security checkpoint?'

Victoria smiled. 'We have.'

A few seconds later, Bane called. "How's everything? Is Ethan taking good care of you?"

She was reminded of what Ethan said and chuckled. "Did you tell him to wait on us hand and foot and that he won't be getting a year-end bonus if he didn't?"

Ethan's expression stiffened. He wanted to stop Victoria, but he was too slow.

Victoria had finished her sentence and it was too late.

I'm done for! Ethan had only said those things so that Victoria would let him handle the luggage. He didn't think she would tell Bane about it.

His boss was a lunatic.

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What if he thinks I'm trying to badmouth him in front of her? It won't just be my bonus that gets cut. He would cut my pay too.

However, Bane readily admitted to it with a laugh. "Since I can't be with you, I had to

find someone else to take care of you. What of it? Does Ethan think that being told to attend to your needs means he has to wait on you hand and foot?"

Victoria glanced at Ethan and chuckled when she saw the morose look on his face.

"Of course not. I'm happy that you asked him to help me, but seeing him saddled with all the luggage does make it seem like he's waiting on me hand and foot. Are you unhappy that I'm saying this about your assistant?"

Ethan, who had been hanging his head low out of despondence as he thought that his year-end bonus had flown out the window by now, looked up at once. He stared at Victoria with sparkling eyes.

He saw the smile on Victoria's face and instantly knew that she was helping him.

Bane chuckled. "I'm the one who sent him over to help you. You can say anything you want about him."

"Thanks. You've seen to my every need despite not being here yourself."

3/8

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Chapter 185 Getting Her Period

"It's what I should do. After all, I have to trouble you to get something at the auction in Jasea for me. Sorry about that. I just couldn't get away."

"It's fine."

Being able to help Bane with something made Victoria feel less indebted to him.

She felt a lot better about it too.

"If you need anything, just have Ethan do it. Don't feel like you owe me. I still have some matters to attend to here, but I'll meet up with you as soon as I'm done."

"Alright."

The call ended. Just as Victoria put her phone away, Ethan began thanking her profusely.

“Thank you so much, Miss Selwyn. If you hadn’t helped me, I’m afraid...”

“It’s nothing. You...”

4/8

Victoria’s smile slowly disappeared. She felt a tinge of pain in her abdomen, followed by something trickling out of her, just as her expression stiffened.

“Miss Selwyn?” Having worked for Bane for quite some time, Ethan had learned to

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Chapter 185 Getting Her Penod

be observant and pay attention to other people’s expressions. He saw the troubled.

look on Victoria’s face and asked, “What’s the matter?”

Ethan was a man, so Victoria didn’t feel comfortable sharing about her situation.

Nevertheless, she needed to head over to the restroom to deal with this at once.

Thus, she pursed her lips and said, “Please excuse me for a moment. I need to use the restroom.”

“You two stay close to Mr. Hudson, okay? I’ll come over when I’m done.”

Once Victoria left, Ethan looked at the two children.

“So... you two can come with me first, I guess.”

Nathan looked concerned. He thought of something and asked Ethan, “What’s the date today, Mr. Hudson?”

Ethan checked his watch and reported the date. “Is there something special about today?”

After hearing the date, Nathan figured out what was happening. He counted with.

his fingers to be sure before answering, "I think Mommy is getting her period today."

5/8

Chapter 185 Getting Her Period

Ethan's expression stiffened. He scratched his head awkwardly. She's having her period?

Just then, his phone buzzed with a text.

He checked his phone and saw the text from Bane.

6/8

'I forgot to tell you that she'll be getting her period today. Make sure she stays warm.

Don't let her touch anything cold.'

Ethan froze. Well, okay. Women do have things to look out for during their menstruation period.

He looked around and spotted the tastefully furnished cafe up ahead, so he suggested to the children, "Why don't we get a hot drink for your mommy?"

He had a girlfriend before. At the very least, he knew that women should drink warm water to help with their menstruation cramps.

Since they were at the airport, it felt a little weird to order just a cup of hot water for Victoria, so he decided to get a hot drink instead.

Nicole's eyes

lit up

with eagerness. "Can you get one for me too, Mr. Hudson?"

Chapter 15% Getting He

Ethan didn't know what to say.

A few minutes later, Ethan and the two children stepped into the cafe.

It was a large, brightly-lit cafe with an exquisite interior. As the space was separated into several sections, everyone was able to have some privacy without being disturbed by others.

Upon entering the cafe, Ethan saw that many of the patrons were busy working on their laptops. They were so engrossed in their work that they spared no attention to others.

He had far too many suitcases to lug around, so the two children walked by themselves beside him.

The sound of the suitcases rolling on the ground made Terrance look up. His eyes widened with surprise when he saw a man hauling multiple suitcases by himself. That's remarkable. How can he manage to handle that many suitcases with him at once?

"Pay attention." The man opposite Terrance gave him a warning as soon as he glanced away.

Chapter 185 Getting Her Period

"Yes, Mr. Cadogan. I'll sort out the details right away."

E

However, despite Terrance's response, he was actually grumbling on the inside. He didn't think he would have to be dealing with work just before the flight..

"Hi there. What would you like to order?"

The server came forward to take Ethan's order and was surprised to see two adorable children behind him. The children wore cute clothing that matched their large eyes and chubby cheeks. However, that did not take away from their attractive features which made it clear that they had to have attractive parents too.

“Give me...” Ethan looked back to find two tiny faces peering back at him. “Three cups of hot cocoa.”

Chapter 186

1/7

“Very well. Three cups of hot cocoa. You can find a table and wait there,” the cashier said.

“Okay,” Ethan said.

He looked around and led the children to a table by the window.

“Come. Let’s go there,” he said to them.

Nicole swiftly ran over to grab a corner of Ethan’s shirt.

When he looked down, he spotted a tiny pink fist clenched around his shirt. It was so tiny that it was barely a third of the size of his palm.

It might be small, but it still clung tight to his shirt.

He was the stereotypical tough guy, but he felt his heart melt into a puddle at the sight of that fist.

It was no wonder that most people liked kids.

Thus, he slowed down to ensure Nicole was able to keep up with him. He also

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glanced at Nathan to check on him.

As expected of the boy, Nathan maintained a distance from him as he walked beside his sister in a composed manner. The solemn look on his face made him look just like a miniature adult.

Ever since Alaric’s warning, Terrance had been too afraid to be distracted by anything else. When he heard Ethan walking past with suitcases, he had the strong

urge to look over.

However, the memory of Alaric's warning glare forced him to suppress it.

He waited until Ethan walked past them before sneaking a glance at Ethan.

He had expected to see a pile of suitcases being moved, not the backs of two adorable children.

The children were dressed in outfits that were identical in every way except for color.

Ah, children. Finally, Terrance realized why Ethan had so many suitcases with him.

"You will not be getting on the plane if you can't resolve this matter before the

2/9

Chapter 186 You'll Regret It

boarding time."

Alaric's frigid voice and warning caught him by surprise.

Terrance snapped back to his senses to find Alaric glaring at him with icy eyes.

346%

As Terrance's face went pale, he hurriedly replied, "Right away! I promise I won't be distracted again."

3/9

The very thought that he might not get on the flight scared him so much that he did not have the guts to think about anything else but his work. With his head ducked down, he focused all of his attention on the work.

The women's bathrooms.

The capital's airport was so huge that Victoria had to spend several long minutes searching for the bathrooms.

After locking herself in the stall, she found that her period had arrived as expected. She had been so busy throughout the month that she forgot her period was supposed to start today.

Thankfully, she always kept a stash of emergency supplies in her bag.

”

Chapter 186 You'll Regret t

Otherwise...

Once she was done, she headed outside to wash her hands.

46%

The water was ice cold. She would usually be fine with it except during her periods. The cold sensation was unbearable then as every drop of water flowing down her hands felt like shards of ice scraping past her skin.

Her face was ghastly pale, including her lips.

The pain radiating from her abdomen felt stronger than before.

That was likely caused by the cold drink she had last night.

She would never touch anything cold during the days before her period was due to start, but she had been so very busy that she forgot what day it was. She also did not have the time to think last night. Food was all that she could think about.

She was in for it now. Today, she would be dying from pain.

She did not bring any painkillers either.

In the end, she had no choice but to stumble out of the bathroom with her arms wrapped around her abdomen.

4/9

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As she walked out, she bumped into a middle-aged woman who steadied her with a concerned look on her face. "Goodness! Are you okay?"

Victoria plastered a friendly smile on her face and nodded her head.

"I'm fine," she replied.

"But, you don't look so good, love."

"It's just my period."

The woman instantly understood what was happening then. "Take care, then."

"Thank you," Victoria responded with another wan smile.

5/9

Right outside the bathroom was a boarding gate, so she sat down near it and pulled out her phone to message Ethan.

'Have you arrived at the boarding gates yet, Mr. Hudson?'

When Ethan received her message, he had been waiting in the cafe for a very long time, frustrated that his order had yet to arrive.

The workers here were way too slow.

46%

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As he thought that, his phone buzzed with Victoria's message.

6/9

'We're in a cafe near where we parted,' he started to reply.

"Your hot cocoa, sir."

Before he could finish his message, the cafe staff called out to him.

"Okay," he called back, putting away his phone to grab the suitcases. Then, he turned to Nathan and Nicole and said, "Come. Our hot cocoas are waiting for us."

The two children followed behind him as he walked off with the suitcases.

As they passed by Alaric, Nathan, who was walking at the back, glanced at Alaric.

With one glance, Nathan recognized Alaric as the man who had opened the door for him in the bathrooms even though he was on a call.

Nathan had not expected to see Alaric here.

He opened his mouth to greet Alaric but was interrupted by Ethan.

“Hey, kiddos, stay close to me. I’ll be doomed if I lose you,” Ethan said.

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Distracted from his initial train of thought, Nathan turned and toddled over to Ethan. with his tiny legs.

With three cups of hot cocoa successfully acquired, Ethan made sure to place straws in the children’s cups. He then ruffled their hair.

“Alright. Let’s go find your mom.”

Nicole took a tentative sip of her warm drink. Her beautiful eyes squinted with joy.

“Thank you, Mr. Hudson.”

Her thanks were repeated by Nathan who had curled his fingers around his cup as well.

“Let’s go,” Ethan repeated.

“Phew!” Terrance heaved a huge sigh of relief and looked up from his paperwork.

“All done.”

He then stretched his arms out in his usual stretch.

However, halfway through the motion, he froze as he suddenly spotted the cold glare directed at him. He looked just like a glitching robot.

7/9

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Terrance awkwardly blinked in response before slowly pulling his arms back and looking around to hide his awkwardness.

As he scanned the area around him, he spotted the man who had walked past their table with two children. They were walking out of the cafe.

Previously, Terrance had only been able to see the children's backs. Now, he had a clear view of their faces.

His eyes went wide with shock upon the first glance.

Shoot!

Was this truly just a coincidence?

These two children were featured in the stream Alaric usually watches!

He had not imagined they would bump into the children at the airport.

"M-Mr. Cadogan, I feel like I must inform you of some major news," he started.

He then pointed out to the children and continued, "The two kids who just walked past us..."

8/9

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Chapter 186 You'll Regret It

Unfortunately, Alaric's phone started ringing then.

Alaric ignored Terrance and promptly answered the phone in a cold-hearted manner.

"Hey," Alaric greeted.

Terrance had no choice but to hold back the words he was about to say.

One moment later, he pursed his lips hard as he stared at Alaric. In his mind, he swore that Alaric would regret what he had just done.

Chapter 187

The person who called Alaric was none other than their business partner.

By the time all the details were hashed out, Alaric immediately hung up before leaving the rest of the work to Terrance.

Terrance had no choice but to continue working. Deep in his mind, he was still thinking about the children he had just spotted.

After a few moments of contemplation, he decided to take the risk of mentioning them to Alaric.

"Mr. Cadogan, I... I just saw two kids," he said.

Before he could finish speaking, Alaric shot him a warning glare.

1/10

Terrance forced himself to ignore the glare and continue, "They look like the children in the stream you watch."

Alaric's fingers twitched. He froze midway through packing up his bag.

Then, his head snapped up to look at him.

Chapter 187 Why Butt Into Their Lives

"What did you just say?" he demanded.

Terrance awkwardly scratched his cheek. "I-I'm not too sure. I only saw one of their faces from the side. Still, they look very similar. They're identical twins, so I'm guessing..."

"Where?" Alaric interrupted.

He shot to his feet before Terrance could finish his statement.

"Huh? They're gone..." Terrance pointed out of the cafe.

As soon as he said that, Alaric's tall figure vanished from view.

Terrance stared into thin air for a moment in shock before snapping back to his senses. He hurriedly packed up everything on the table and ran after Alaric.

2/10

The airport was huge with crowds of people heading in all sorts of directions. By the time Alaric ran out of the cafe, not a single familiar face was to be seen.

Occasionally, he would spot someone walking around with children by their side, but those children were not those twins.

He searched and he searched, but he never found a single sign of them.

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Finally, Terrance came running over to him, panting.

"Mr. Cadogan, the airport is a massive place. It'll be hard to find them here. W-Why don't we just forget about it?" he suggested.

Alaric turned to stare at him upon hearing that.

The stare felt like Alaric was shooting daggers at him.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?" he snapped out.

As expected, d*d if **he spoke up, d***d if he did not.

Either way, he was to blame for everything.

"I was going to tell you, sir, but someone called you. I was afraid..."

"Next time, just tell me," Alaric interrupted with a scowl.

"Next time? Will there be a next time?" Terrance blurted out.

Destiny was a strange thing.

Some people would only appear in one's life once. Some people would be
3/10

Chapter 187 Why Butt Into Their Lives

impossible to meet.

There might not be another encounter.

Alaric's eyes lowered slightly in astonishment.

True. Would there even be a "next time"?

After a brief moment of contemplation, he pursed his lips and coldly stated, "Get ready for boarding."

"Okay."

Terrance followed behind him with his bag in hand.

Due to his curiosity, he could not resist posing a question to Alaric halfway through their walk.

"Why do you like those children so much, Mr. Cadogan?"

Alaric's face went dark as he ignored Terrance's question.

However, he did not look angry. Thus, Terrance continued to ask, "If you really like the kids, why don't you contact them? After all, you have given them so much tips

4/10

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on the stream. Surely, they wouldn't refuse a request to meet up?"

Alaric finally glanced at him then.

"Meet up with two children? Do I look like a human trafficker?"

"Erm, well..."

Would a human trafficker pay the kids that much money in the first place?

Human traffickers were not idiots.

"Didn't their mother keep telling you to stop with the donations? Has she tried to return the money to you? If that's the case, you could seize the chance to meet up."

Alaric remained silent.

Terrance's words echoed in his mind, however.

Seize the chance to meet up?

Frankly speaking, Alaric did not know why he was so obsessed with the children.

Perhaps it was because of how bright their smiles were.

5/10

Chapter 187 Why Butt Into Their Lives

Looking at them felt like looking at the sun.

They were so cute, so energetic, so radiant, so full of joie de vivre.

They were the complete opposite of his life which was drowning in darkness.

He was the epitome of a cold heart, irritable and hard to get along with.

However, his adoration might have others wondering if there was something wrong with him. After all, why would he like the two children for no reason?

At that thought, he closed his eyes and said in a deep voice, "There's no need."

It was good enough that he could watch them through the phone.

The two children were so happy that it was proof that they were leading great lives.

He was only one of their audience members who was leeching off their warmth

through their streams. Why butt into their lives?

He might end up annoying them.

Terrance sensed the abrupt change in Alaric's thoughts. All of a sudden, Alaric radiated a dark aura that turned the air around him incredibly cold.

6/10

12:32

Chapter 157 Why Butt Into Their Lives

Well, Terrance had grown used to Alaric's abrupt mood swings over the past five years.

Victoria was waiting by the boarding gate.

Ethan had messaged her to say that they would be looking for her, so she stayed in her seat and waited.

With suitcases in tow, Ethan spotted her from afar, sitting in one of the seats near the boarding gate with an extremely pale face.

No wonder Mr. Morison told me to take care of her. She looks to be in so much pain being on her period.

"Miss Selwyn," he called out.

"Mommy!" Nathan and Nicole cried out.

He walked over and handed the warm cup of hot cocoa to her.

"We just bought it, so it's still warm. Drink up, Miss Selwyn. It'll warm you up," he said.

Victoria paused and stared at him for a few moments before realizing that he had

7/10

Chapter 157 Why Butt Into Their Lives

guessed what was going on with her.

She did not play coy and promptly accepted the cup.

"Thanks," she said.

"You're welcome. Drink up."

After a few sips to warm herself up, the pain radiating from her aching abdomen finally eased up. However, she was still feeling the effects of having eaten something cold the night before. Hence, her face remained pale.

Nathan, who had been watching the entire time, lovingly placed his warm cup against Victoria's abdomen.

"Here, Mommy. My hot cocoa will warm you up," he said.

Nicole blinked upon hearing that. She wanted to hand over her cup of hot cocoa as well but realized that she had drunk so much of it that there were only a few sips left.

It would not be of use if she did the same as Nathan.

Standing next to them, Ethan sighed. "How nice it would be to have a hot water

E

8/10

12 32 501,

Chapter 167 Why Butt Into Their Lives

bottle."

He also realized just how tough periods were on women.

It would be painful for Victoria to run all the way to their boarding gate.

At that thought, he pushed a suitcase over to her.

"Why don't you sit on this, Miss Selwyn? I'll push you over to the boarding gate," he said.

Victoria, who had been preoccupied with the torment her abdomen was putting her through, stared at him in confusion.

She glanced at the suitcase before her then back up at Ethan who had a concerned and kind smile on his face. Her lips twitched uncontrollably.

It was unnecessary, absolutely unnecessary.

"Go on, Miss Selwyn," Ethan said.

"It's fine, Mr. Hudson. I can walk," she responded awkwardly.

She was only suffering from cramps, not a broken leg.

9/10

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Chapter 187 Why Butt Into Their Lives

Moreover, the idea of being pushed around on a suitcase?

She still had her dignity to uphold.

"It's really fine, Miss Selwyn. Hurry up and sit. I'll push you," he said.

Chapter 188

"No, no," Victoria repeated,

"There's really no need, Mr. Hudson," she continued,

"Please, Miss Selwyn. I'm strong enough to push you along while pulling the other suitcases," Ethan insisted.

"If you must push someone..." Victoria said, "Nicole, get on the suitcase and let Mr. Hudson push you around."

"Okay, Mommy," Nicole responded,

She was a smart kid. Soon after Victoria's suggestion, she climbed onto the suitcase. However, she had a somewhat difficult time with the climb. She held a tiny hand out to Ethan and sweetly called out, "Mr. Hudson, help me."

Ethan subconsciously grabbed her arm and helped her up to sit on the suitcase.

Ethan only realized what had happened after Nicole was properly seated.

"Wall, Miss Selwyn, what I mean is..."

1/9

"Nicole is tired. I leave her in your hands, Mr. Hudson. Nathan, grab your suitcase.

Pull it yourself,” Victoria interrupted.

“Okay,” Nathan said.

The two children were especially obedient. They basically did anything that Victoria told them to.

Eventually, Ethan had no choice but to push Nicole along on the suitcase.

“Thank you, Mr. Hudson,” Nicole apologetically repeated to Ethan. She was so cute that the only reply Ethan could muster was, “Good girl. Hold on tight. We don’t want you falling.”

They had booked first–class tickets.

Ethan had planned on leading Victoria to the lounge to rest for a while, but they had spent so much time dilly–dallying that boarding had started by the time they arrived at their gate.

Thus, they had to board the plane first.

Victoria was eager to finally sit down. The plane should be warmer than the airport,

2/9

Chapter 188 Boarding

and she could even ask the air hostess for a blanket later.

“We can board the plane now, Mr. Cadogan,” Terrance remarked from beside Alaric.

Alaric nodded with a blank face.

“Oh, right. Mr. Cadogan, I have more news,” Terrance said,

Alaric turned to look at him in confusion.

“We have to line up later,” Terrance continued.

“What do you mean by that?” Alaric froze in his tracks.

“Well, when I bought the tickets last night, there were no first–class seats available.”

With Alaric's intense gaze trained on him, Terrance forced himself to continue his explanation. "They were out of business-class seats. In the end, I had to book economy-class tickets."

Everything seemed to come to a standstill once he was done speaking.

Terrance looked at Alaric with a conflicted look in his eyes.

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Chapter 188 Boarding

"Mr. Cadogan, we were unlucky when we booked our tickets. These seats would rarely be sold out. I don't know what's going on with today's flight. Don't worry, though. I'll ask around later to see if anyone in the first class is willing to swap seats with you. I'll ensure you can get through your flight in comfort. For now, we'll have to line up."

4/9

Terrance led Alaric over to the queue as Alaric continued to stare at him with sharp eyes.

Alaric was a tall and handsome man whose beauty was not hard on the eyes and constantly radiated an air of elegance. Thus, as he waited in line, many girls stared at him.

The flight they were taking had a lot of foreign passengers.

These passengers were bolder and more friendly than the others. Their gazes burned as they looked at him up and down. They even began whispering to each other about him. Some of them would wink or shoot flirtatious looks at him as they passed by.

Alaric did not respond in any way at all to the reactions he garnered.

Terrance sneakily glanced at Alaric. When he saw how dark the look on Alaric's face.

Chapter 188 Boarding

was, he swiftly looked away.

He, too, did not want to line up if it was at all possible.

Once they were past the gates, Alaric grimly marched ahead while Terrance raced to keep up.

"I'm so very sorry, Mr. Cadogan. It's my fault. I had not expected the flight to be booked out," he said.

Alaric abruptly stopped in his tracks and turned to shoot Terrance with a sharp look.

"Terrance Levane, if this ever happens again, you'll be terminated immediately," he snapped out.

"Yes, sir. It won't happen again, sir. I promise, sir. This was unexpected," Terrance hurriedly replied.

Once on the plane, Alaric headed to the first-class seating area as usual.

"Welcome onboard," the air hostesses greeted.

The eyes of every air hostess they walked past lit up with delight when he walked past them.

5/9

Chapter 188 Boarding

"Sir, your ticket..."

The moment the air hostess spoke up, Terrance promptly handed over their tickets. from behind Alaric.

The air hostess took one glance at their tickets and stopped Alaric from moving toward the first-class seating area. "Excuse me, sir, but your seats are this way."

Alaric paused.

The air hostess continued to smile as she gestured toward the economy–class seating area. “This way, sir.”

The people who were boarding were now looking at them.

Their eyes betrayed their curiosity and judgmental thoughts as they stared at Alaric.

Terrance was at a loss for words.

He was doomed.

He would be yelled at again.

“Sir?” the air hostess asked once more when Alaric did not move.

6/9

Next thing she knew, he snatched his ticket from her and coldly marched to the economy class seating area. As he passed by Terrance, he barked out, “Do not let me see you again once we’re back.”

Terrance was bawling on the inside. He quickly said to the air hostess, “Excuse me, but we have a friend up ahead in the first class. Since the plane isn’t leaving just yet, can I head over for a minute?”

The air hostess paused in astonishment before nodding.

In the first–class seating area.

Victoria’s group had bought their tickets early on. Thus, they were mostly seated together.

As Victoria was not feeling well, they decided to give her the seat by the window.

Once they boarded the plane, her cramps increased in intensity. Ethan helped her ask for a thick blanket from the air hostess. Then, she curled up in her seat and fell

asleep.

Not long after she closed her eyes, she heard Nathan softly call out to her.

“Mommy.”

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No matter how much pain she was in, she still swiftly opened her eyes in response to her child’s call.

“What is it, Nathan?”

“This is for you,” he replied.

He was holding out an eye mask to her.

She paused upon seeing it and chuckled.

“Thank you, Nathan. Could you help me put it on?” she asked.

“Okay.”

8/9

Nathan leaned over to slide the eye mask over her eyes. His motions were as gentle as could be, just like the caring boy he was.

“All done, Mommy.”

“Thank you, Nathan. Well, I’m going to sleep now. Can you help me take care of Nicole and yourself?”

Nathan instantly nodded.

You Ane to take owe of yourself 200. All right. I’m going to sleep now

Dont worry, Miss Selwyn. I take care of them. You focus on resting.

The last sentence was spoken by Ethan who had abruptly chimed in

He was a very thorough man in his work, and he was on a mission from Bane. He

could take care of both the children and her

Indeed, Victoria did not need to wONTY,

She soon fell into a deep sleep.

Due to how cold it was, she pulled her blanket up high, covering her entire neck and jaw. The only part of her that was visible was her nose which was left unobscured for breathing.

Just then, Terrance arrived at the first-class seating area.

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Terrance walked into the first class seating area and immediately began scanning the seats to see if anyone would be willing to switch seats with him. Finally, he set his sights on a middle-aged man who appeared to be from Lyria. "Hello, sir" He approached and gave his business card to the middle-aged man.

After he saw Terrance, the man froze, a surprised grin spread across his lips, and exclaimed, "Mr. Levane?"

Terrance looked at him blankly, seemingly perplexed, and asked, "You know me, sir?"

"I do, Mr. Levane. I'm Mack Ballard from Goodman Corporation. We've met before, the man introduced.

After hearing that, Terrance scoured his memory long and hard for a square-looking face with tiny eyes and a stubby nose. Unfortunately, he did not recall ever meeting anyone like that.

However, Mack was not annoyed by Terrance's blank look. He merely reached up to scratch his nose in response. "It's fine, Mr. Levane. You're a busy man. It's normal for you to have forgotten about me.'

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Chapter 18) Swapping Seats

Terrance had no choice but to nod in agreement.

“Oh, right. If you’re here, that means Mr. Cadogan is also here, right?” Mack got to his feet, looked around, and added, “I don’t see him anywhere.”

Realizing that Mack was making a scene, Terrance hurriedly reached out to press his hand against the man’s arm as he whispered, “Well, here’s the situation. Are you willing to swap seats, Mr. Ballard? The seat is in economy, but if you’re willing to swap seats, I can immediately provide you with the appropriate compensation.

Alternatively, you can decide on a price.”

he

On the other hand, Mack was a man with a sharp mind, so there was no way didn’t grasp what Terrance meant. “I understand, Mr. Levane. So, Mr. Cadogan is in the economy seat in the back? You are looking to swap seats for him?” he asked.

Terrance gave him a thumbs-up upon hearing that. “Yes, that’s it. You’re a smart man.”

“Oh, I can’t claim that. Hurry up. Let’s swap my seat for Mr. Cadogan’s,” Mack immediately responded. After saying that, he stood up again with a grin.

After seeing that, Terrance hurriedly pulled out his phone and stated, “About the compensation, Mr. Ballard-”

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When Mack heard that, he interrupted him with a chuckle. “Oh, Mr. Levane, let’s not speak of compensation. I don’t need any of that. It is my honor to be able to swap

seats with Mr. Cadogan.”

Terrance was at a loss for words. If he doesn't want monetary compensation, we owe him a favor. If so, what percentage of the profits should be spent to compensate for this favor?

“Where is Mr. Cadogan now, Mr. Levane? Why don't you lead me to him?”

How should I respond? I can't say I don't want to swap seats at this point.

Nonetheless, I'm afraid that if I let Alaric fly in economy class, I will be fired as soon as we land. After giving it some consideration, Terrance said, “Very well. Let me lead you to him.”

“Good,” Mack said with a laugh.

The two men then proceeded to the economy class to look for Alaric.

377

Meanwhile, Alaric was not seated, as his seat was by the window. A large man and a middle-aged woman, who appeared to be married, occupied the aisle and middle seats, respectively. Alaric stood there with a disdainful expression, making it clear that he was not pleased with his window seat. If he sat down in that space, his legs

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would be unable to find a comfortable position because he was a tall man with long legs, and the seat was too cramped for him.

At that moment, Terrance was about to pass out after observing the situation. So, he promptly approached Alaric and said, “I have swapped your seat, Mr. Cadogan. This is-”

“Hello, Mr. Cadogan. I'm Mack Ballard from Goodman Corporation. I-” Mack had approached with a fawning smile, eager to shake Alaric's hand. However, he came

to a halt when Alaric glared at him coldly. His feet felt like they had been nailed to the ground as he did not dare take another step closer. Instead, he chuckled awkwardly and commented, "Ah, you truly live up to your reputation, Mr. Cadogan. No wonder people say you have a powerful presence."

On the other hand, Terrance quickly briefed Alaric on the seating arrangements, after which Alaric shot him a stern look before walking away.

4/7

After that, Mack had no choice but to step aside for Alaric when he observed Alaric's hasty departure. When Alaric was no longer in sight, Mack turned to Terrance and suggested, "Why don't we exchange contact information, Mr. Levane?" Terrance silently stared at the man. Still, he owed Mack a favor, so he had to give in and take out his phone.

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Meanwhile, Alaric marched stoically toward the seat that Mack had previously occupied. He sat down and was still in a gloomy mood, giving off such a cold air that everyone glanced in his direction.

It was common for passengers to swap seats, and as long as everyone was willing to do so, the air hostesses would not say a word.

Furthermore, Alaric looked like someone among the cream of the crop, so the air hostess quickly walked over to check on him once he sat down. "Do you need anything, sir?" she asked.

He was still in a bad mood and coldly answered, "Wine."

After hearing that, the air hostess stared at him momentarily before nodding. "Very

well. Please give me a few minutes.”

When he was finally served, he immediately downed half of his glass. After that, he wiped the drops of red wine from his lips before leaning back in his seat with an expressionless face.

In the meantime, the air hostess who had served him returned to her post, and she

5/7

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noticed her colleague reading a financial magazine. The first photo the air hostess saw was of Alaric dressed in a black suit, and she realized the man in the magazine looked exactly like the man on the plane.

“Is that...” The air hostess studied the photograph again and drew back the curtains. to look at the seated man.

“It’s him,” her colleague confirmed with a nod.

“Goodness! He was so unusually handsome that I knew something was off when I saw that he had bought an economy–class ticket,” the air hostess exclaimed.

“We have a lot of people on the flight today who bought first–class and business–class tickets. His assistant had likely been too slow to book a ticket,” her colleague explained.

When they finished gossiping, they returned the magazine to its shelf.

6/7

On the other hand, Nathan and Nicole were sitting together and watching a cartoon. Ethan remained by their side, never once letting his guard down. Once in a while, he would check on Victoria, who was sound asleep, to ensure he adequately cared for all three. Before the plane took off, he texted Bane before turning off his phone.

46%

Chapter 189 Swapping Seats

First-class passengers on this flight were notably quiet. Since Nathan and Nicole had been raised as well-educated children, they did not fill the air with chatter despite watching cartoons. If they wanted to talk to each other, they would lean close to the other's ear and speak into it with a hand over their mouth. That way, their conversations would not disturb the others on the plane.

77

As he observed the interaction between the two children, Ethan felt love and warmth fill his heart. He finally understood why Bane was willing to accept Victoria's children into his life. In addition, he had always known Bane loved her.

However, when she had two children out of wedlock, it was clear whose brows those children inherited... Ethan knew everything because he had accompanied Bane during his trip to Gandra. After all, Ethan had met that man before, and he knew that man was equally attractive as Bane and, in fact... That man might be even better than Bane. Naturally, Ethan wouldn't tell Bane something like that. Despite this knowledge, he couldn't understand why Bane would let her keep the two children.

Even though Bane seemed nice on the surface, to Ethan, he was a psychopath who could do anything. For this reason, Ethan was surprised to learn that Victoria could give birth to twins.

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If Bane wanted Victoria to be his, he could have used other methods to ensure her children never saw the light of day.

Where there was a will, there was a way, right?

Not only had the children been successfully born, but Bane also saw them as his own. He even remained as devoted to Victoria as ever.

As a man, Ethan thought that he would rather die than be so generous. However, now that he had spent some time with the children... He thought that the children did not need to be gone. From that point of view, he seemed to be rather... generous as well.

1/9

After all, they were both so cute and mature. Who would not like beautiful and polite children?

The envy he now felt for Bane was equal in intensity to how badly he felt for Bane. back then.

As he pondered, Nicole suddenly turned to Ethan and said, "I need to go to the Chapter 100 Kind Hearted bathroom, Mr. Hudson."

Ethan stared at her, astonished.

Did they not go to the bathrooms just before boarding the plane?

Soon, he realized what was happening. While they had gone to the bathrooms. before boarding, she also had a large drink during that time.

7/9

Ethan was about to say that he would help her, but his words were stuck at the tip of his tongue.

Nicole might be a little girl, but she was still a girl. It would be fine if he were her father, but it was strange for a man to bring her to the bathroom.

"Give me a moment. I'll call for an air hostess to help you," he eventually said.

"Thank you, Mr. Hudson."

Ethan pressed the call button, and an air hostess soon arrived to lead Nicole away.

"You'd like to go to the bathroom, right? Come with me, little girl," said the air hostess.

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Nicole looked up at her and held her hand out for the air hostess to grab before softly saying, "Thank you, Miss."

She was so sweet that the air hostess was instantly enthralled by her. Deep down, the air hostess was screaming in joy over how cute Nicole was. On the surface, there was a calm and collected look on her face.

3/0

Nicole was an obedient girl who listened to instructions and washed her hands after she was done. As she stepped out of the bathroom, she thanked the air hostess once more.

"There's no need to be so polite, sweetheart. Come. I'll lead you back," the air hostess said.

Before returning Nicole to her seat, the air hostess could not resist pinching Nicole's cheeks.

Just as she thought, Nicole's cheeks were soft and squishy, like a marshmallow.

Nicole seemed to be used to that kind of behavior, however. She did not find it weird and just let herself be led back to her seat.

As they walked to Nicole's seat, they suddenly heard an icy voice call to them.

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"Could you pour me another glass? Please."

The man's voice sounded cold and aloof, yet he added a "please" at the end.

The air hostess turned around and found that the man who had called out to her was the man she had just seen on the finance magazine cover. She promptly nodded. "Very well, sir. I'll get you another glass right away."
The air hostess swiftly grabbed his glass to refill it with wine.
At that moment, Nicole was left behind, standing by herself.
She blinked up at the handsome man who was seated nearby.
It might be laughable, but Alaric was still sulking over what happened.
The question was whether he was sulking over Terrance's failure at his job or over the two children he had missed.
After the air hostess left, he pursed his lips into a thin line as his narrow eyes squinted.
Out of the blue, he smelled something sweet in the air.

4/9

Chapter 190 Kind Hearted

What was that smell?

Then, a realization struck him, and he turned around.

Within a second, two pairs of eyes locked.

The girl continued to stand there with her hands in her cute little pockets as her wide, lively eyes blinked at him. Her shoes were clean without a single speck of visible dirt. All of that painted a clear image that the child's parents were taking great care of her.

Her eyes shimmered with pure

Alaric's breath hitched.

Was he hallucinating?

innocence..

Why else would the girl who had only ever appeared on his phone screen suddenly be in front of him?

As he wondered about the reality of what he was seeing, she suddenly tilted her head and sweetly said to him, "You're really handsome, mister!"

He froze.

5/0

Chapter 190 Kind Hearted

That sweet voice...

That was the same voice he had heard over and over again in the streams.

However, it was more realistic and softer in person.

"Nicole?" he asked.

The name seemed to have been blurted out on reflex.

Her eyes lit up.

"You know me?" she asked.

The moment she heard her name, Nicole seemed to have let down her guard against him. Previously, she had remained where she was. Now, she was walking over to his seat.

"You know me, but why don't I know you?" she asked.

By then, she was standing beside his legs.

He subconsciously held his breath due to how close she was, his brows also furrowed in a frown.

6/9

Chapter 190 Kind-Hearted

Nicole was not as cautious as she should be.

She had been standing far away, too afraid to get near him before. Now, just because he called out her name, she was standing right next to him.

Had her family never taught her about stranger danger?

Moreover, she was currently initiating a conversation with a stranger.

For some reason, her actions made him want to lecture her.

However, he soon realized that would only scare her off.

Thus, his only choice was to slow down his breathing to lower his voice to cautiously speak in a soft voice.

"That's because I watch your streams," he answered.

Disappointment flashed on her face when she heard that.

He noticed her reaction and felt himself holding his breath once more.

Had he misspoken?

7/9

12:33 Sat,

Chapter 190 Kind Hearted

Was that why she was disappointed? If she were disappointed, would she walk away and ignore him?

As he wondered if he should tell Nicole he was Silent Night, her bright smile suddenly returned.

"I thought you knew Mommy. It's fine. Mommy said that anyone willing to watch our streams would have kind hearts."

He was surprised by her words.

"Why do you say that?"

After all, he did not think he was that kind.

In fact, he was rather mean-spirited at times.

All of a sudden, someone was calling him kind.

Nicole looked up at him and spoke in a solemn tone.

"That's because only kind people would have the patience to watch the live streams of two kids," she replied.

8/9

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She was whole-heartedly imitating Victoria when she spoke.

She even imitated the exact tone and face Victoria used when she said that.

Alaric could not resist chuckling upon hearing that.

"Your mommy is a very good woman," he said.

9/0

"Of course!" There was a proud gleam in her eyes when she heard a compliment for Victoria. Despite the childish ring of her voice, she sounded absolutely serious when she declared, "Mommy is the very, very, very best person in the whole world!"

The serious look on her face made his lips tilt upward.

"Is that so?" he asked.

He lifted his hand to ruffle her hair.

Unfortunately, the air hostess returned with a tray just as he did that.

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