

Departure with a Belly Chapter 291

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Like what his mother told him, Nathan kept a close eye on his sister so she wouldn't say anything s***d, but Nicole was more... unorthodox than he expected, and he couldn't react to her actions in time.

The moment she saw Silent Night the next day, the first thing she said was, "Mr. Night, you're handsome."

Oh no. Nathan knew something was wrong, and before Nicole could say it, he knew what would come out of her mouth. He tried his best to stop her, but...

Nicole said, "I want you to be my daddy."

Nathan felt deflated. Mission failed, Mommy.

Alaric was holding something in his hands, but when he heard what Nicole told him, he froze. The shock got to him, and the bag he held fell out of his hand. The plopping sound attracted everyone's attention, but since they were just kids, they only looked on in curiosity and confusion.

Alaric stared at the wide-eyed Nicole in disbelief. He then went down and held her petite shoulders. "What did you say?" He whispered, "Can you say that again?"

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Nicole felt a great strength holding down her shoulders, but it didn't hurt. Silent Night loomed over her, but for some reason, she thought he felt friendly, so she wasn't scared at all. "I like you, Mr. Night. Can you be my daddy?"

Listening to that again melted Alaric's heart. His daughter liked him enough that she wanted him to be her father, and he thought it would be a long time before his kid would like him enough for that.

"Mr. Night." Nathan came over and nervously said, "She was kidding, Mr. Night."

Alaric asked him. "Do you want me to?"

Nathan froze, wondering what Alaric was saying, then Nicole said loudly, "He would love it!"

Oh, so that's what they were talking about.

Like a koala, Nicole held on to Alaric like he was a eucalyptus tree. "If you want to be my daddy, then you have to woo Mommy."

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Alaric's heart had melted, and he said softly, "I will."

"What if she says no?" Nicole was still worried about what her mother told her. The fact Mon,

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she wanted her to keep a secret meant she didn't want to marry Silent Night. But I really like him.

Alaric patted her head and gently said, "She won't say no." That might not be reassuring enough. Alaric organized his words and said, "Even if she says no, I'll do my very best to change her mind."

Nathan had no idea what to say in this situation. He poked his fingers together, wondering how he should explain this to his mother later.

Alaric asked, "Shall we have lunch?"

Nicole nodded, and Alaric took the kids to their spot for lunch. Zack was his nephew in public, but Alaric didn't look at him. Still, he didn't mind. When he went home the night before, his parents told him to stay quiet and nice whenever this man was around, and he was to do what he was told. Zack listened to them, and he understood that his family was living a better life thanks to this man. Even when he was ignored, he didn't mind.

Alaric didn't bring any junk food that day. His chef prepared the food and filled the lunchboxes for the kids. Alaric laid the lunchboxes out and opened them up. Never did he think the day would come when he would bring his kids' lunch to them at school. If someone had told him a few years ago that this would be his life, he would call them

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mad, but now he was more than happy to do this.

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Especially when he noticed the change in his kids' eyes when they saw the food. They were obviously astonished that he would bring them a feast. A smile curled Alaric's lips, and he asked, "Did you wash your hands?"

"Yep." Nicole swung her hands around.

While they had lunch, Alaric looked at the silent Nathan, then at Nicole. Quietly, he asked, "Does your mother know of your proposal, Nicole?"

"What do you mean?"

"That you want me to be your daddy."

"Oh, that. Yeah, she knows. I told her yesterday."

And Alaric looked surprised. She told her yesterday? And she brought it up with me today? Did Victoria say yes? The thought of that possibility made Alaric frown. "So, what did she say? Did she agree to this?" He hoped she would agree, but at the same time, he didn't want that.

If she did agree to that proposal, Alaric wouldn't be happy. Silent Night might not be a

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total stranger to Victoria, but he wasn't exactly a close friend either. There's no way she would agree. Thanks to his secret identity, Alaric had fallen into a dilemma.

Nicole took a bite of the meat and puffed her cheeks. "Eh, you shouldn't ask. The answer's gonna break your heart."

Alaric snapped out of it. "Is that so?" I see. He knew that would happen, but he still felt a little down. "So, it was a no."

Nicole nodded. "Yeah, but don't worry. I'll help you out." Nicole patted his hand like she wanted to comfort him.

It was just a little gesture, but it felt so warm to Alaric. He pursed his lips and made a pinky promise to her. "Pinky promise? If she says no, you'll help me out?"

Nicole was still munching on her food, and her cheeks were puffed, then she quickly made the pinky promise. "Sure, Mr. Night."

Done. Alaric patted Nicole's head, and a cryptic smile curled his lips. She seems to like me a lot. Before I tell everyone the truth, I'll try to make them my allies. Nicole's on my side now, so Nathan is the only one left.

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Although Alaric seemed to have half succeeded, he knew he couldn't win over Nathan's

heart that easily. If something went wrong with the other half of his success, all his efforts would go down the drain.

His son was young but had a mature personality, which was exactly the same as him during his childhood.

Suddenly, Alaric hated his personality because it made his son even harder to win over. After Nicole was done, she led Zack away to play while Nathan stayed to help Alaric clean up. Despite his young age, he didn't complain and seemed good at doing chores. Meanwhile, Alaric was quietly watching from the side and pursed his lips. "I'll clean. You can go and play with the others.

up.

However, Nathan quietly shook his head. "No, thank you. Mommy said we shouldn't take things for granted. I can make some contributions."

Alaric chuckled when he heard that. "You shouldn't take things for granted?"

"Yes."

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After thinking about it, Alaric smiled and offered, "Sure. Then, can you put in a few good words about me with your mother? You won't be taking my kindness for granted if you say more good things about me."

As if hearing something shocking, Nathan raised his head to look at Alaric, probably not expecting the man would say such a thing.

At the sight of his son looking at him, Alaric asked with a smile. "What's the matter? Is it a hard task for you?"

Then, he saw the little fellow pursing his tiny lips without saying anything.

The scene made Alaric sigh, and he squatted before the child. "Nathan?"

"Mr. Night?"

"Do you hate me a lot?"

Maybe the term "hate" was too strong of a word. The little fellow shook his head. "No, I don't hate you."

"You don't hate me, but do you like me? Would you agree if I said I wanted to be father?"

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Nathan stared at him, still not saying anything.

But Alaric wasn't anxious, and the two quietly stared into each other's eyes for a long while before Nathan softly said, "Mr. Night, it's not up to me to decide that."

"Oh? Then, who should be the one making the decision? Your mommy?"

Nathan nodded. "Yes."

"Does that mean you will also agree to that if your mommy agrees?"

Though Nathan didn't reply, his expression and attitude already admitted what Alaric said was right. However, it also made things even harder for Alaric because he didn't need to think to know that he might not win back Victoria even if he managed to win over the two children. As for getting back together, that was even more impossible.

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In fact, there were other methods to get what he wanted. The children were his, after all, so he could easily force Victoria to return to him, but as Terrance said, she left Alaric five

years ago because he had hurt her, so what right did he have to demand that she return to him?

While thinking of that, Alaric rubbed Nathan's head. "Alright, you should head inside. I'll take over from here."

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This time, Nathan didn't refuse and nodded, but when he was about to enter the door, he suddenly turned around and asked, "Mr. Night, do you know my mommy?"

It was strange because they met at the airport by chance, and Nathan heard Alaric talking on the phone. Whenever Alaric spoke, his voice sounded cold and flat, and his face hadn't much emotion. He also seemed like a fierce man with a strong temperament.

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However, that man turned out to be Silent Night, and he even wanted to be their father. That was confusing to Nathan, and he suspected perhaps Mr. Night and his mother knew each other, which was why he sent so many rewards whenever they went on a live stream.

Once he asked that question, Alaric froze but soon returned to normal. He stood there and looked at the tiny Nathan, wondering how a small child like Nathan could be so sharp.

Such a question couldn't have been asked on a whim, so Alaric tugged his lips into a meaningful smile and then returned the question to Nathan.

"What do you think is the answer?"

Nathan moved his lips but didn't say anything.

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C***g. That was the only word in Nathan's mind that fitted well with Silent Night's overall temperament. Then, Nathan suddenly had a feeling that his mother would certainly lose to Mr. Night when it came to scheming against someone.

When that thought emerged, Nathan suddenly became warier.

Meanwhile, Alaric was stunned because he wasn't expecting his question would alert the little fellow. That meant that Nathan not only understood the meaning behind the question but also thought of something else.

It seemed like Nathan was, indeed, his son-smart.

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However, Alaric did not want Nathan to distance himself from him because he couldn't get on Nathan's good side otherwise. So, he approached Nathan and rubbed his head again, explaining, "Yes, your mommy and I sort of know each other, but let's keep that a secret between us, okay?"

When Nathan heard that, he felt puzzled. "You know my mommy? But does Mommy know who you are?"

Alaric pursed his lips. Although the child before him was only five years old, it was better to speak the truth when he exhibited such shocking alertness. Therefore, Alaric gave it a brief thought before answering, "Yes, she does."

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A shocked expression appeared on Nathan's usually expressionless face. "Mr. Night?"
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"But I did something wrong, so your mommy refuses to see me. I want to make it up to her, so can you help me keep this a secret?"

"Will you hurt my mommy?"

"Never." Alaric shook his head. "I promise you that I will never hurt your mommy."

The little fellow seemed to have fallen into deep thought. In the meantime, Alaric patiently waited for the child to give him an answer.

A long while later, the little fellow raised his head. "Well... I can help you keep this a secret for now."

At that answer, Alaric smiled slightly. "Thank you, Nate."

"Can I call you that from now on?" It sounded a little strange since it was the first time he called Nathan so affectionately.

A trace of unease appeared in Nathan's eyes, but he tried to act calm. "Sure."

Once Nathan said that, Alaric rubbed the child's head again, but this time, he didn't remove his hand from the child's head. Instead, he explained, "From now on, Nathan,
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you

don't have to be so nervous and cautious when you're with me. You can be like Nicole and try to rely on me. I will take good care of you two."

When Nathan heard that, he didn't know why, but he suddenly teared up. He's right.

Even if I'm the older sibling and have to act more responsibly, I'm only a five-year-old!

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It had always been that way. Nathan thought he was the elder sibling, and adding to the

fact that Nicole was a foodie and extremely active, he subconsciously became quieter.

Also, his attention would always be on his sister, watching over her and making sure she didn't say something she shouldn't or get hurt.

Now that Alaric told him he didn't have to act that way, he felt tears welling in his eyes, and his great pride made him bow his head, afraid someone would see his expression.

Alaric naturally understood what Nathan was going through. It was also then that he finally understood that even a young child like Nathan had dignity, and he should respect that.

Having thought of that, he coaxed him, "Go on inside. Nicole must be waiting for you."

"Okay." The little fellow nodded and went inside but only turned back to look at Alaric after a while. "Mr. Night, I'll... help you keep your secret."

"Will you? Thank you so much, Nate."

Alaric beamed, and he waited until Nathan disappeared from his sight before his smile gradually disappeared, but it reappeared very soon.

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He didn't expect his words would bring such a surprise. Since Nathan agreed to help him keep the secret, it meant their relationship had grown closer.

Meanwhile, Victoria was still focused on work, with no idea that her son had swapped sides.

She was more relaxed when dealing with interpersonal relationships recently because Bane hadn't come looking for her since that day, and he hadn't texted her either. It was like he had disappeared into thin air.

That surprised her because she had prepared herself to say even harsher words to Bane if she came looking for her again.

Fortunately for her, he didn't appear again because she wasn't sure if she could say such hurtful words to him again.

But what surprised her more was Alaric. He hadn't come to find her again since the day they went car shopping.

Although she didn't know what happened that day that caused him to disappear suddenly, it was currently the best result as her life could now gradually return to its former calm state.

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Nicole and Nathan were still young. Once they grew up a few years later, the situation with her company would have become more stable, and their days would be easier. While she was lost in thought, her phone began ringing. She took a look, and her expression instantly changed.

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Although she didn't save his number, she remembered it after glancing at it a few times. She thought he had finally disappeared from her life but received his call the next moment. Reality had proved her wrong. So, some things aren't meant to be thought about.

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After thinking about it, Victoria switched her phone to silent mode and placed it beside her. She wanted nothing to do with him anymore.

Once she did that, her office was silent again, and she could focus on her work.

However, Henry knocked on her door a few minutes later.

“Miss Selwyn.”

Hearing his voice, Victoria moved her gaze away from her computer. “Yes?”

Henry nodded and then went over to give her his phone. “Your call.”

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Victoria was confused and thought she heard it wrong. Why would someone looking for her place a call to Henry's phone?

She shot Henry a confused look, but Henry shook his head and handed her his phone.

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With no other choice, Victoria took the phone, but when she saw the contact number, her face fell because it was Alaric! Calling my employee just because I didn't pick up his

calls? What does he want?

Pissed, Victoria asked angrily, "Alaric, do you think it's fun?"

But she received silence in response, while Henry instantly felt his blood run cold after seeing how angry she was.

Although he knew Victoria and Alaric were previously married and seemed quite close, it was Alaric on the other end. The usually cold and resolute man, who was also their current investor. Couldn't she be gentler when speaking to him?

But he didn't dare to make a sound and could only try to hold his breath and act invisible.

Seeing that Alaric wasn't saying anything, Victoria did not plan to end the call but asked, "Why aren't you speaking?"

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Only then did the man finally speak. "What do you want me to say?"

"Why did you call my employee?"

Alaric asked, "Why didn't you answer my calls?"

"That's hilarious. Why should I answer your calls?"

A long while later, Alaric gently chuckled. "Victoria, do you think this is a private call?"

Victoria was confused and didn't answer.

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"Have you forgotten our relationship?" Alaric reminded her casually, "Do you need me to remind you?"

When Victoria heard that, her rage instantly diminished because she realized Alaric was now her company's investor.

But she soon composed herself and asked, "So what? Even if we're business partners, you shouldn't be calling my employee, right? Did our contract state that you're allowed to harass my employee?"

Alaric chuckled softly before asking, "Well, does our contract state that you can ignore your investor's calls?"

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Victoria pursed her lips and said nothing.

"Should I remind you that you still haven't given me the promised business proposal?"

Alaric's cold voice and words instantly alerted her.

Business proposal? She suddenly looked at Henry, but Henry couldn't hear their conversation, so he was confused as to why she was looking at him.

As though she suddenly realized something, she apologized, "I'm sorry about that. I'll get back to you once I find out why.

"Sure."

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Once the call ended, she returned Henry's phone to him. "Haven't you sent our business

proposal to Cadogan Group?"

Hearing that, Henry felt even more confused. "Aren't you responsible for that?"

Now it was Victoria's turn to be confused. "Was I supposed to be responsible for that?

Wasn't it you?"

Henry replied, "No, it's not, Miss Selwyn. You and Mr. Cadogan are more familiar with each other, so I thought you would do it yourself."

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Speechless, Victoria rebuked, "Oh, I should do it because I'm familiar with him?"

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"But you're the boss." Henry blinked his eyes and argued, "Didn't you say you've already

put down your feelings for him? I thought you would personally take up the responsibility to send him the business proposal."

That rendered Victoria speechless. Fine, she thought. Any longer, their conversation would get steered toward her relationship problems, and she wasn't in the mood to discuss that with her employee. "I understand. I'll deal with it, so you can get back to work."

"Sure."

Once Henry went out, Victoria sighed and leaned back into her chair. So, did he call her only for the business proposal?

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After Victoria was done preparing the business proposal, she called Alaric again.

"What's your email address? I'll send the

"Bring it here."

Victoria was stunned and heard him say, "I'll get Terrance to send you the company address."

"Can't I just send it to your email?"

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"Victoria, the amount I'm about to invest is not a small amount, and it's not only to help you get by, so you'd better treat this matter seriously."

After the call ended, Victoria took a deep breath to suppress her temper. Then, she got up to print out the business proposal she finished,

Once all that was done, Terrance had already texted her the address to Cadogan.

Group's Jasea branch, so Victoria placed the business proposal into an envelope and

headed out.

She followed the given address and soon arrived at Cadogan Group's subsidiary company.

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Even though it was only a subsidiary company, the building looked magnificent, as one would expect from Cadogan Group. Also, it was no wonder her company suddenly had a surge of applicants after the news of Cadogan Group investing in her company came out.

Afterward, Victoria entered the building with her envelope. Despite it being a subsidiary company, she still needed to make an appointment, and she was smarter this time. Instead of telling the receptionist she came here to meet Alaric, she said, "Hello, I've made an appointment with Mr. Levane."

As she thought, the receptionist wasn't alarmed when hearing Terrance's name and looked at Victoria's professional outfit before nodding. "Sure, ma'am. I'll help you take a look."

A minute later, the receptionist got off the phone and said, "Miss, please use Elevator 5 and head straight to the president's office on the 16th floor."

"Thank you."

Once inside the elevator, Victoria became lost in her thoughts. At first, she thought she could have a quiet life, but who knew she would have to meet him again because of work?

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Also, the horrifying truth was that she had no reason to reject him if he used work as an excuse to order her around.

Once she thought of that, she couldn't help but pinch the middle of her eyebrows.

Meanwhile, Terrance was waiting outside the elevator and immediately smiled when he saw her. "Miss Selwyn."

Victoria nodded and exited the elevator.

"Mr. Cadogan is waiting for you in the office."

While walking behind Terrance, she quietly observed her surroundings and discovered the working environment here was slightly worse than in Gandra. Also, this office seemed to have recently moved here.

When Terrance led Victoria into the office, Alaric was talking on the phone while standing beside the floor-to-ceiling window. The tall man with long legs stopped moving abruptly after hearing the motion from behind and turned around to look at them. Then, he hinted at Terrance with his gaze, and Terrance left, not forgetting to considerately close the door behind him.

Victoria was speechless.

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Since Alaric was still on the phone, he only glanced at her when she came in and then treated her like she was invisible.

It wouldn't be appropriate for Victoria to leave now, so she waited.

A few minutes later, Alaric got off the phone and put it away before approaching her. Victoria felt she was instantly attacked by a wave of strong male hormones and the faint, cold, mint fragrance on him.

His approach made her subconsciously take a few steps backward to maintain their distance, but he only took away the business proposal in her arms and started flipping through it.

He had a calm expression while moving quickly, seemingly to be working and not intending to bother her.

At that instant, Victoria felt like she had thought too badly of him and pursed her lips. On the other hand, Alaric stood in place, but a frown appeared on his expressionless face after he read something.

“Who came up with this business proposal?”

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Noticing his tone, Victoria looked at him. “Is there something wrong with it?”

“Did you come up with this?”

She nodded. “Yes, I did. What’s the matter?”

Once she was done speaking, Alaric sneered. “Is this all you’ve learned these past five years?”

When she heard that, she paled. “What do you mean? Is there a problem with this proposal?”

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“It’s a waste of time and effort if we use this proposal, and you might as well shut down your company.”

Although Alaric’s words infuriated Victoria, she knew him well, so she knew he was very serious when it came to working matters and would never say anything without reason. Therefore, there must be something wrong with her proposal for him to say such things.

She was furious but still forced a smile. “So, what is your opinion?”

Alaric glanced at her and said nothing. Instead, he brought the proposal to his desk and Moli, 3

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threw it on the table.

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Seeing that he was ignoring her, Victoria went over with pursed lips. “If there is something wrong, I can make the changes.”

Alaric replied, “This is trash, so you don’t need to amend anything.”

That rendered Victoria speechless. Was her proposal so bad that it was beyond amendment and was trash?

She was suddenly skeptical about whether he was making this personal, so she grabbed the proposal and asked, “Are you sure I need to redo this?”

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Alaric tugged his lips. “I have no objections if you want to use that, but I hope you can shoulder the losses.”

She spoke up after a moment’s silence. “I understand. If you’re not happy with this proposal, I’ll return and start a new one.”

Once she finished, she turned around to leave.

“Did I say you could leave?”

Victoria turned around, confused, and saw Alaric frowning.

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“How much time will it take to go back and forth? Or do you think I have a lot of time to waste?”

“But it was you who asked me to come here?”

“I did, but did I ask you to leave?” Alaric raised his chin to gesture for her to sit on the side. “Sit there and redo the proposal here.”

If Victoria thought his judgment of her business proposal was correct before, she was beginning to doubt her judgment. Why did he have to make her stay to write a new one when she could just return to her company?

Seeing that she wasn't moving, Alaric narrowed his eyes. “Are you sure you can come up with a satisfactory proposal after returning to your company?”

When Victoria heard that, she retorted, “Are you meaning to say that I can come up with something satisfactory as long as I stay here?”

“You can make amendments on the go. It must be finalized today.”

Silence.

Once he was done, he didn't wait for a reply and sat in his spot.

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Victoria stood there momentarily and finally decided to sit in her designated spot.

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After sitting down, Alaric gave her a laptop. “Use my spare laptop.”

When Victoria took it from him, she subconsciously thanked him out of politeness, shocking them both.

A few seconds later, Alaric's face was as dark as coal. Had their relationship become so estranged that they were so formal with each other?

“What's the password?”

It was until he heard Victoria's voice that he snapped out of his thoughts and looked at her. “You're birthdate.”

Victoria froze.

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My birthdate. What's the meaning of this? This spare laptop seems new, so it must be newly bought. Why would he use my birthdate as the password? He hurt me, divorced me, and even asked me to go for an abortion, yet he still uses my birthdate as his password.

While biting her lips, Victoria expressionlessly entered a series of numbers and saw the laptop was indeed unlocked. She suddenly found it ridiculous. How could he? What right did he have to do such a thing?

Then, she angrily opened a new document and began typing while persuading herself not to think about it or fall for Alaric's tricks. Even if he used her birthdate as the password, it still didn't mean anything because their relationship was in the past. What she must do is to look ahead and finish her work.

However, she still needed to ask for Alaric's opinion to know whether her proposal was satisfactory.

In the meantime, Alaric felt frustrated after seeing no reaction from her about the password thing. But he couldn't do anything about it because he asked her to stay, so the proposal must be finalized today.

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Casually tapping his fingers on the table, he seemed carefree, explaining, "You're
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running an advertising company, but that business proposal you made seemed like a personal proposal. It's too idealistic, and for a small company to quickly find a footing in the industry, you must learn how to catch up with the latest trend."

While he talked, he placed his fingers on a certain page of the proposal and ruthlessly criticized her, "If your ideas are too old-fashioned, your proposals would all be in vain. Is this all you've learned during the five years you were abroad? Or is this all he taught you? It seems like your decision to choose him over me isn't that great."

The last sentence sounded overly personal, which added other emotions to Victoria's face while she was attentively listening to his advice. She frowned and gave him a displeased look. "Mr. Cadogan, are you talking to me about work or my personal life?" Alaric's eyes dimmed. "Why does it matter whether I'm talking about work or your personal life?"

"If you want to talk about work, please be professional, but if you want to talk about my personal life, I'll have to bring this back to my company and continue there."

Once she was finished, she heard him laugh. "Victoria, I wouldn't be so worried if your abilities are as large as your temper."

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Smack! That p***d Victoria off, and she immediately slammed the laptop close. "Mr. Cadogan, I don't see the need to continue this partnership if you don't trust me."

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After that, she stood up and was about to leave, but she felt Alaric grab her wrist before she could take a step.

He was frowning deeply, creating three creases in his forehead. Before she arrived, he had decided to get along with her peacefully. Like what Terrance mentioned, since he decided to pursue her, he must show her his attitude.

But he felt suffocated and in pain when he saw her reluctant attitude. Those emotions caused him to say things he didn't mean.

"Let go of me." Victoria tried to struggle from his grasp but couldn't.

"Victoria, are you going to write the proposal or not?"

Hearing that, Victoria sneered. "Shouldn't I be asking you that? Do you consider prying into someone else's past a part of proposal writing?"

After a long silence, Alaric gritted his teeth and said, "I'm sorry, okay?"

Victoria thought she had heard it wrong and glanced at him with confused eyes,

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wondering how the aloof man would admit his mistake, especially when it was about such a thing.

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After releasing her hand, he bowed his head. "Don't look at me that way. Are you writing the proposal or not?" Perhaps it was because he apologized, so Victoria felt better. The proposal had to be finished, but she snapped back at Alaric to maintain her dignity.

During the later hours, Alaric stopped making snarky remarks and professionally discussed the proposal. Maybe she had been abroad for too many years, which was why she didn't understand much about the situation here, she was greatly enlightened under Alaric's guidance and reminders.

In the end, she even forgot the man used to be her ex-husband and focused all her energy on work. There were no personal feelings in her tone, and she talked to him like how business partners would.

When Alaric noticed that, his expression fell again.

Meanwhile, Victoria was so immersed in work that she was almost done writing the proposal when Terrance knocked and came in to remind them it was time for lunch.

Victoria ignored him and continued to focus on her work.

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Resigned, Terrance turned to Alaric, who pursed his lips and reminded Victoria, "It's time for lunch."

"Okay," she replied but didn't look away from the screen.

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Looking at her, Alaric doubted she heard what she said and just replied something after hearing his voice.

As he thought, she was still in the same position and didn't even move her head after a few minutes.

Alaric frowned and called her again, "Victoria."

Victoria subconsciously replied, "Just a moment."

Not knowing what to say, he reached over and knocked on the spot beside her laptop.

"Eat first, work later."

Having been interrupted several times, Victoria found it hard to focus, so she frowned while shooting a displeased look at Alaric. "I'm almost done. Can you eat on your own?"

I wasn't planning to eat with you either.

Alaric didn't say anything after that.

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Meanwhile, Terrance watched from the side and decided to intervene. "Miss Selwyn, though work is very important, you should take your meals on time. Otherwise, it might harm your stomach. Take Mr. Cadogan for example, he was a workaholic before and didn't eat his meals on time, which is what caused his gastric bleeding."

However, Victoria wasn't convinced and asked, "Are you sure he suffered gastric bleeding because he worked too much? Isn't it because he's always drinking in large amounts?"

After that, Alaric stayed silent while Terrance gave an embarrassed smile. "Alcohol is only a factor, and the most important factor is not having meals on time. So, Miss Selwyn, let's have lunch."

Victoria still wanted to finish her work, but when she heard Terrance mention Alaric's gastric bleeding, she suddenly realized something. It seemed like he hadn't returned to the hospital since being discharged.

Also, she wondered if he had been taking his medications on time because she was the one who brought him out last time, and if something happened...

Once she thought of that, she secretly sighed before saving her work and closing the

laptop. "Fine. Let's have lunch first."

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If possible, she didn't want to have a meal with him because it would make it seem like they had reconciled. But when she remembered the guidance and reminders he gave her this morning... Forget it. Just take it as repaying him for this morning. It's just a meal. It wouldn't cause any harm.

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