

Departure with a Belly Chapter 506

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Chapter 506 Disappointing You

She got into a big fight with Bane because she was worried he might not treat Alaric. He was severely injured, and if he didn't get treated, he might die or get afflicted with serious complications. Eventually, she convinced Bane into letting him leave.

Just then, she was reminded of the promise she made to Bane. He only let Alaric go because she offered to stay. And now I'm gone before I even explained things to him. Bane would be waiting for nothing, and she had no idea what he was going to talk about. She had a feeling he would say goodbye, but that was just a hunch. Victoria asked, "How long have I been out?"

"Why do you want to know?"

"Just curious."

"A day."

She pursed her lips. I wonder what had happened when I was out.

She fell into silence. Alaric had no idea what was on her mind, but he knew she was not in the best of moods. "What's wrong?"

She looked at him and shook her head. "It's nothing." That was what she said, but then she fell right back into her pensive thoughts.

The man asked, "So, do you remember how you lost

your

memories?"

The question confused Victoria, and it was then she realized that she hadn't even wondered how she had lost her memories after losing him. "... am not sure, but when I woke up, my head felt like it was injured."

Alaric looked at her forehead, but there was no wound or scar, so he checked the back of her head. "So, you hurt the back of your head?"

"I think so."

He checked on it for a moment and fell silent. "You're getting that checkup. I need to know you're

fine."

Right then, Victoria was reminded of something else. "Hey, I know you want me to get checked, but what about you?"

"What about me?"

"If I'm right, the whole reason I went there was to make a deal with him. I stayed so you could leave."

Alaric frowned, and he cursed himself for relenting back then. If it weren't for that, he wouldn't have gotten himself hurt or knocked out. If he weren't knocked out, she wouldn't offer herself up so he could leave.

He failed as a man; he failed to protect his lover and had her put herself in danger.

"Ethan told me you were deep in a coma when you left. Badly hurt, too." That was the meat of the conversation "So, when did you wake up? Have you sustained any more wounds other than the one on your chest?"

Alaric said nothing.

"Alaric?"

Alaric looked at her. "Not too long ago."

"And you came straight to me?"

He didn't want to tell her, but it was impossible to hide, so he confessed, "Yes." When he woke up and found out he was back in his home nation, he told Terrance to arrange a flight. And thanks to his father's help, he managed to save Victoria.

The confession made Victoria frown. Ethan wouldn't lie to her. If Alaric had gone back to their home nation and woken up there, then he must have been badly injured, or he wouldn't have been knocked out for so long. And he came back right after he woke up. No wonder his wound had torn open when he took me away.

"Are you sure you're alright?" she asked. "Did the doctor permit you to pull this stunt right after your recovery?"

Delighted by her concern toward him, Alaric smiled. "Of course, I'd asked for his permission before

I came."

Victoria stopped for a moment, looking speechless. "I have amnesia but am not demented."

Damnit, the man cursed in silence.

"You think you can lie to me? Is this a joke to you?"

Alaric got a little nervous. "Are you mad?"

Victoria turned her head away.

"I'm sorry. I just don't want you to get worried. D-Did I let you down?"

He sounded so nervous that it was as if he would kill himself if she didn't forgive him. She couldn't possibly ignore him if he was in that state. Even though he neglected himself, he only did it to save her, so she had no right to be angry at him. Slowly, she turned around. "You should know why I'm angry."

"I know." Delight flickered in Alaric's eyes, and he huddled closer to her. He was going to hold her in his embrace again like they were lovers.

Victoria's heart skipped a beat, but she didn't refuse his gesture. She leaned against his chest and relinquished all tension.

"I know you're mad because you're worried about me."

His presence enveloped her the moment she got near, and she felt secure in his embrace. Her hand slithered onto his shoulder and hung on his neck.

Something stirred within Alaric, and he looked down, leaning closer. Sounds of footsteps echoed from the entrance, and Victoria stiffened up. She let the man go and pushed him away before going

back to bed.

Alaric rooted to his spot, still leaning over.

Terrance came in and looked confused by the scene. "What are you doing sitting like that, sir? Is Miss Selwyn awake?"

Victoria coughed as if on cue, and she slowly raised her hand. "Calling for me?"

"Oh, you're awake." Terrance was delighted to see her awake. "And I was wondering when you'd wake up. Are you feeling all right? The doctor said you should tell us if you're feeling unwell. And then you'll be going for a checkup."

"I'm fine."

Alaric was still in the same position, and he looked at Terrance. "Tell the doctor her memories are fumbled up. See if he has any treatment for it."

Terrance's delight vanished in that instant, and he stood, petrified. "What happened to her memories?" He stared at Alaric in shock. The look on Alaric's face told him what he needed to know, but he still turned to Victoria for confirmation. "D-Do you remember who I am, Miss Selwyn?"

Much to his disbelief, the lady slowly shook her head.

Seeing that, Terrance cursed within his heart, What the hell, Bane! It hasn't even been days, and Miss Selwyn's lost her memories?

Chapter 507 Still Worried About Him

Terrance cursed Bane in his heart and quickly said, "I'll call the doctor." Then, he left.

Victoria thought Terrance was gone, but he came back a short while later, only this time, he didn't come in. He stood at the doorway, calling out to Alaric.

Alaric turned around, and he noticed Terrance had something to say, so he told Victoria, "I'll be right back."

Victoria curled up in her blanket, nodding. "Sure."

Alaric left the ward, but Terrance motioned for them to go to a further place to speak. Alaric frowned. "You can speak right here. What's with the mystery?"

Terrance looked past Alaric's shoulder and muttered, "Sir, we should really take this somewhere else, or Miss Selwyn might hear us."

Impatience flared in Alaric's heart. *I went through hell to bring her back, and now you want me to leave her? What if something happens to her? Who's going to pay for it?* His face fell. "If you don't want her to hear us, then speak quietly or text me."

Terrance wanted to persuade Alaric, but one look at his face shut him up, so he lowered his voice. "Sir, you've been keeping an eye on her for a while now. It was fine when she was in a coma, but now that she's awake, you should be focusing on your wound. The doctor's been waiting, worried that the wound might get inflamed."

Alaric had forgotten about the fact that he too was injured, so he didn't expect Terrance to bring it up, and he froze. A moment later, he said, "I get it. I'll see the doctor in a bit."

That story didn't fly with Terrance. "It's not the first time you said that, sir. I've never seen you going to the doctor. If you aren't going, then he's coming to you. Doctor's words, not mine."

Tsk.

"So, either you let Miss Selwyn watch while the doctor deals with your wound, or you see him right now. Pick one."

A while later, Alaric said, "Call her doctor over."

Ugh, finally. Terrance nodded and left.

Once he was gone, Alaric went back to Victoria. She was still covering herself, revealing only her head, and he was amused. He helped her sit up, and she asked, "So what were you two talking about? Something I should know?"

"It's nothing. Just get some rest."

Victoria didn't give up. Instead, she frowned. "Is this about your wound?"

Alaric froze, surprised that she was so keen, but she had always been smart. Even without him saying anything, she could guess the gist of the matter. "You're reading too much into it." He tapped her nose. "If I'm really hurt, I wouldn't be talking to you now, nor could I have brought you all the way home."

Victoria shook her head. "This is different. You are wounded. Even if you were fine, you might be at your limits right now. Before I blacked out, the doctor did check on you once, didn't he?"

"Yeah, and thanks to him, I'm sitting here with you. Don't worry. I won't get in trouble. I still have to keep you safe, don't I?"

That's *true*. Victoria stopped suspecting him but she was still worried about the Bane situation, so she asked, "What happened to Bane and his guys after I left?"

The mention of Bane's name dampened Alaric's mood. "Why do you want to know? Worried?"

The jealousy was unmistakable, and Victoria resigned to it. She lost all her memories, but she could feel that Alaric was a territorial man. Bringing up Bane might upset him, but she had to do it as she needed to tie up loose ends, if any. "No. I just want to know how you're going to deal with him."

"Even when you've lost all your memories, you're still worried about him," retorted Alaric, sounding even more jealous.

Ugh.

"I don't mind the wound he inflicted on me. It's a sign that we're over as friends, but I won't forgive him for what he did to you."

That was a bit roundabout, but Victoria could sense the malice and fury simmering beneath his words. She wanted to say something when she heard footsteps. Terrance had come back with the doctor. "Sir, Miss Selwyn, the doctor is here."

Alaric resumed his old self and held the back of Victoria's head. "Just let the doctor check on you. I'll be going now, but I'll come back once you're done."

Victoria knew what he was going to do, and she nodded. "Sure."

Before he left, Alaric told Terrance to stay and keep an eye on things. He said, "Of course, sir. I won't let anything happen to Miss Selwyn even if it means my life."

A bold statement, but Alaric didn't doubt him. After all, Terrance had done a lot in this rescue mission, and he traveled to a lot of places to set things up. Alaric nodded. "You're getting a raise in bonus."

"Thank you, sir."

After Alaric was gone, Terrance went inside to keep an eye on things. The doctor asked Victoria a lot of

questions during the checkup, and she answered everything. In the end, he had no more questions, so Victoria looked at Terrance. She started casually, "Um..."

She didn't finish her sentence, but Terrance knew that she wanted to ask for his name, so he said, "Call me Levane, Miss Selwyn."

"Mr. Levane." Victoria nodded. "Is Alaric badly hurt?"

"Um..." The sudden question made Terrance freeze. Before he could answer, Victoria spoke again.

"He went to get his wound checked, didn't he?"

He went to get his wound checked, didn't he?

Terrance finally *snapped* out of it. "Yes. Ever since *you* fell unconscious, he's been staying by your side. Even when the *doctor* told him to get checked."

Called it. Victoria felt for him. "Did he push himself to save me?"

Terrance didn't want *to worry* Victoria, but at the same time, he didn't want Alaric's contribution to *be* unacknowledged, so he nodded. "Yes."

Chapter 5 0 8 Hard to Answer

"He was badly hurt when he was taken home, and that's not even including his external wounds. The doctors spent a lot of time just treating him. He should've been put under forty-eight hours of observation after he woke up." Terrance stared at the ground, resigned. "But we couldn't stop him."

He didn't tell her how terrifying Alaric was. He looked like a beast who would kill anyone who came in his way. If they tried to stop him, he would kill himself. In the end, Terrance threw caution to the wind and let Alaric save Victoria.

Victoria finally got the whole picture. Alaric was lying when he said he was fine. Everyone tried to stop him, but they failed. That would explain why he smelled like blood. Then, reminded of something, she asked, "You were implying he had internal injuries. What kind? Will he end up with complications?" She had been worried about that.

Terrance said, "Worry not, Miss Selwyn. Your amnesia is worse than his condition. Even though he risked his life to save you, now that he's getting treated, he'll be fine."

Victoria still looked worried, however. Seeing that, Terrance said, “Miss Selwyn, if you’re still worried...” If you’re still worried, just wait until he comes back. You’ll be at ease once you see that he’s fine. That was what he wanted to say.

Victoria took it the wrong way. Before he could finish, she said, “I can see him, can’t I?”

Terrance froze. “Um...”

Victoria looked at the doctor. “Is my checkup done, doctor?”

The doctor liked this girl. She was cooperative and had a nice voice. He smiled at her. “I need fifteen more minutes. If he’s still not back by then, you can seek him out.”

“Thank you.” Victoria continued with the checkup. Just fifteen more minutes. Alaric has been with me for a long time. It’s going to take a while before he comes back.

Terrance didn’t expect this to happen, but he didn’t mind letting her go. If she saw his injuries, she might realize how much he had risked saving her, and their relationship might get better. Well, that’s settled then.

Fifteen minutes later, the checkup was done.

“Thanks for the cooperation,” the doctor praised. He was the Cadogans’ personal doctor, after all. They needed to wait for some of the test results, while some were available immediately. Victoria was in no hurry to find out about her checkup results. She straightened out her collar and got prepared to see Alaric. However, the plan failed because just as she got up, Alaric was already back.

When he noticed her getting out of bed, he frowned. “Why are you getting out of bed? Is the checkup done?” He approached her and passed his arm through her underarm. Before Victoria realized what he was doing, he was already picking her up.

She gasped and wrapped her arms around his neck as he took her back to the bed. The doctor and Terrance had taken their leave, so only Alaric and Victoria were left.

Victoria said, "You can't just hold me whenever you want."

"Why?" He hadn't seen her for a long time, and he missed her. They just got out of a crisis, so he wanted to hold her all the time and never let her out of his sight. Only then could he feel content. Only that could erase his guilt, fear, and unease.

"Because you're hurt. If you hold me, you're going to tear the wound open."

"No. You're not even that heavy."

"Really?" Victoria pulled up a memory. "Then why did you bleed so much when you saved me? Because you were holding me, weren't you?"

"No. Because the wound was already open," Alaric denied, so Victoria wouldn't think it was her fault.

"I see." Victoria stared at him. "So that means you didn't deal with the wound when it was torn open."

Alaric froze. Damn it, she got me. He played dumb. "What?"

Victoria changed the subject all of a sudden. "You were in the black car tailing us, weren't you?"

It was a simple question, but Alaric stopped to think about it. Maybe I should come up with a better

answer.

"What is it?" Noticing his pensiveness, Victoria huddled closer. "Is that so hard to answer? It's just a

yes or no."

Alaric didn't feel this miffed even when his wound was at its worst. This was a simple question, but he couldn't answer it simply.

"Alaric?" Victoria huddled closer, her scent enveloping Alaric. Alaric stared at the beautiful woman, and an inappropriate idea popped into his mind. Well, he already had that idea before, but Terrance's entrance interrupted him.

He was upset at Terrance because of that, but he was glad Terrance showed up. After all, Victoria must still be unwell after the ordeal. He shouldn't be having these thoughts, so threw them out of his mind and turned away. "I was just wondering how you could be so lively after the ordeal. The checkup's fine, I presume?"

"Don't change the subject. Were you or were you not in the car?"

Can't run from this, I guess. "I was."

"You were tailing us for a while. You had time to deal with your wound, so why didn't you?"

Knew it. She's here to demand an explanation. He smirked. "Worried about me? But it's in the past now. What matters is that I'm fine right now and I'm right here with you. That's enough, isn't it?"

"You think just because you got out of this with sheer dumb luck, you can pull something similar

next time?"

Alaric's smile froze. "That's not what I meant."

"You're incorrigible, or you wouldn't have waited until I woke up before you got yourself checked. What could you even do for me if you were keeping an eye on me while your wound festered?"

Victoria knew she was castigating him, and she guessed that he might be disappointed. After all, he risked his life to save her, but now she was rebuking him.

Chapter 509 Why Did You Do That to Her

Victoria had no idea about the kind of woman she was before the amnesia, nor did she know how she would deal with this kind of matter, but she just knew she had to nag him.

Everyone could laugh just because things ended up fine, but what if they didn't? What if they ended with tragedy?

Alaric knew the severity of the situation as well. Victoria had just woken up, and fluctuating emotions might hurt her, so he stopped arguing and quickly apologized. "I'm sorry. I won't do it again. Please don't stay mad at me, alright?"

Victoria thought he would at least argue, but instead, he apologized right away. She looked at him dubiously. "That's fast. Are you sure you won't do it again, or did you just say it to appease me? You won't do it again, will you?"

"No next time, I promise." He promised he wouldn't let her get taken away again, so there wouldn't be a next time. Technically, that was not a lie.

Victoria couldn't say anything after that earnest apology.

Realizing that she had calmed down, Alaric asked, "You've been awake for a while now. Do you feel any discomfort?"

Victoria shook her head. "No." She wanted to ask about Bane, but earlier, Alaric looked angry because of that, so she tucked that idea away and brought up something else. "I have something to

ask."

That line dulled Alaric's delight, and he calmly said, "What is it?"

She knew Alaric was thinking that she might ask about Bane, and she sighed. "I'm not going to ask anything about him. Ethan told me I have two kids, so, where are they?"

Alaric thought she would forget about the kids because of her amnesia, so he was surprised that she asked. He paused, and the fury that was sparking disappeared, replaced by a softer emotion. "My dad asked around. They went to the outskirts with my mom."

Victoria had no idea where the outskirts were, but she was relieved that the kids were with Alaric's mother. "So, I can't see them for now?" She really wanted to see the kids. At this moment, her amnesia was not a curse, but a blessing. She was curious about the children, wondering what they would look like. She wondered if they would act like the kids she saw in her dreams. The thought of that intensified her wish of seeing them.

Alaric asked, "Do you want to see them?"

Victoria looked at him. Before she could say anything, he said, "Then we'll wait until the results of your checkup are out. If everything is fine, I'll take you to them."

Happiness filled Victoria's eyes. "Really? So, I can see them?"

“Yes, but only after we know that you’re fine. If you’re not, then you have to stay and get treated.”

Victoria agreed to that. “Sure, but what about you? Maybe we should wait until you’re better.”

“I’m fine. I just need some rest and make sure to use my salve. Won’t harm me one bit. Besides, I don’t have to carry you around this time,” he joked.

Victoria shot him a glare. “Oh, so this is my fault now?”

“No. So feeling well? Need anything? Why don’t you eat something, and then we can check the results later?”

“Sure.” Victoria was starting to feel hungry, so Alaric told someone to make some food. He had no idea that Victoria’s appetite was severely affected by the ordeal, but he still told them to make something easy to eat, given that she had just woken up.

Victoria didn’t want him to find out about that. She had found her motivation to live and could eat now. All she needed was some time to rest up, so telling him would only make him worry. Victoria was careful when she ate, worried that she might retch if she ate too much.

When she was feeling a bit full, she put her spoon down, and Alaric took the plate. “Done?”

Victoria nodded. “Yeah. I just woke up, so I don’t feel like eating much. Maybe next time.”

Alaric didn’t think much about it. He nodded and told the ser vant to do the dishes.

Later, the test reports were released. The doctor said that Victoria was fine, but there was no way to cure her amnesia except wait. He also told Alaric that Victoria was malnourished.

Alaric tightened his grip on the report. Victoria was slender, to begin with, and now she was getting gaunt. Still malnourished? It hasn’t even been too long. I can’t imagine how much torture she’s been through. Amnesia and malnourishment? Alaric clenched his fists and gnashed his teeth. Da mn you, Bane. I thought you liked her, so how did this happen? If I had been that much later in my rescue,

would she have died?

When Alaric came back to Victoria, he had hidden his fury and pain. He gently draped a coat over her and said, "The car's waiting right downstairs. Anything you want to take with you?"

"Um, I don't really have anything to take with me." Maybe she really didn't, but mostly it was because of her amnesia, so she had no idea what to take with her. The servants only packed up the

essentials.

The look of loss in her eyes did not escape Alaric. He said, "It's alright. Even the outskirts are getting developed now. We can get anything you want there."

Victoria nodded. "Sure."

Alaric held her hand. When her skin touched his, he was reminded that she was still malnourished, and that memory sparked some fury within him. Bane...

"I know you might get angry, but if you're coming with me to the outskirts, what about Bane? Don't you have to deal with him?"

That snapped him out of his fury, and Alaric smiled. Tenderly, he said, "It's alright. Someone else is dealing with it now, and I'm sure he'll do a perfect job."

That snapped him out of his fury, and Alaric smiled. Tenderly, he said, "It's alright. Someone else is dealing with it now, and I'm sure he'll do a perfect job."

Victoria looked dazed for a moment. She might be hearing things, but she swore Alaric gnashed his teeth when he said the last part of that sentence.

Chapter 510 To Recover Her Memories

Still, after all she and he had gone through, it was normal for him to get mad.

"Don't ask any more questions. You've lost your memories now, so just rest up."

"But..." Victoria was still hesitant.

"You think I can't handle this?"

“That’s not what I meant.” Victoria looked at him. She was going to say something, but the look in his eyes made her swallow her words. Fine. I might have lost my memories, but I have faith in my decisions. I chose him, so he can handle matters. Bane went down the wrong path, and he must rectify his choice.

She said nothing more and leaned backward. She was going to lean into the seat, but Alaric extended his arm and pulled her into his embrace. She rested her head against his chest.

“Get some rest.” His presence soothed her and calmed her heart, so Victoria didn’t object to being hugged. In fact, she wrapped her arms around his waist and rested in his embrace.

Alaric paused for a few moments and pulled her tighter. Only then could he feel that she was real.

The path was smooth at first, but the further along they went, the bumpier and more meandering the path became. There was even a mountain near the path. There were no surveillance cameras around to monitor their safety, not to mention there was a risk of a landslide.

The driver was experienced enough to know that they should leave this stretch of the path at once, and he sped up.

Once away from that stretch of road, Victoria frowned. “That stretch of road was scary.”

Alaric held her in silence, calming his fire down. She had rattled around in his arms back at that bumpy stretch of road. It was fine at first, since he had to keep her safe, and that stripped him of any chance to think of anything else. However, the more she rattled, the worse the flame of desire burned within Alaric. Once he was done calming down, he said hoarsely, “I’m telling someone to fix that path.”

Road repairs aren’t cheap, Victoria thought. But he didn’t seem too concerned about it, so I guess he’s rich. Oh, so that means the father of my children is super rich. Victoria was happy about that, and she hugged Alaric tighter.

The flames were lit once more. Alaric patted Victoria’s back, twirling her hair around. Eventually, she fell asleep in his arms. When he noticed that her hands had slipped from his waist because she fell asleep, he held them and tucked them into his coat, warming her up as he held her in his embrace.

The car was warm and peaceful. It was like they had returned to a time when they were more loving. Alaric was bothered by her amnesia at first, but after all the shows of affection, he thought it was probably a good thing for her. If she was the Victoria of old, she would never be so close to him.

Even if they were to patch things up and fall in love again, the barrier they had between them would be hard to tear down. He would be spending a lot more time just to patch things up again. However, now she was approaching and cozying up to him just because her heart told her to.

Eventually, the car came to a stop, but the driver didn't turn around. Instead, he politely said, "Sir,

we're here."

Alaric looked outside, then he turned to the sleeping Victoria. Quietly, he said, "Let her sleep. Stop the car by the roadside."

"Of course, sir." The driver nodded and stopped by the roadside. The passersby stared at the car, and some even stopped for it, finding it curious.

"What's with all these expensive cars coming to our village?"

"I heard they came for Casey. The lady who arrived a few days ago is her daughter. Came with her grandkids, and dear lord, are the kids beautiful. Fair and lovely. City kids are so different."

"Yeah. I saw them when I passed by her house. Casey's husband even made a swing under the tree so the kids could have fun."

The passersby started chatting as they went by the car. Some said Casey was blessed with a good daughter, some said she was blessed with a good grandson who was also famous in the city, and some said Casey herself was a powerful woman who only backed out of her position due to age and moved to their beautiful village. The mention of that made their hearts swell with pride, and the villagers started bragging about their home.

Alaric rolled down the window a little and listened to the conversations. When he heard that his grandfather made a swing for the kids, he smiled. They love the kids too. Well, they're smart and lovable in the first place. Most people love them, relatives and strangers alike. No one can resist beautiful people or things.

Just then, Victoria stirred, and Alaric looked at her. Slowly, she woke up. Her eyes snapped open, and a few moments later, she looked at him. "I fell asleep?"

"Yeah." Alaric nodded and caressed her cheek, then ran his fingers through her hair.

Victoria realized the car had stopped, and she looked outside. The sight made her "We've arrived?"

eyes

shine.

The look of delight on her face made Alaric smile. "Yes."

"Why didn't you wake me?" There was a little complaint in that tone. Victoria quickly got up and pushed him away as he was getting in her way.

Wow. Victoria got out of the car, and Alaric followed. "Slow down. You just woke up. Don't want to fall down now." Alaric led Victoria inside. His men could lug their luggage inside.

As Victoria walked, she looked around and asked, "Have we ever come here before?"

Alaric shook his head. "No."

"No wonder it doesn't feel familiar."

Alaric looked at her. "Do you feel a sense of familiarity whenever you go to places you've been

before?"

"I think so. I'd get a different feeling when I run into people I used to know. That feeling extends to places too,

I think."

"When we're done with our business, I'll take you around the places you've been before. Maybe that'll help with you getting your memories back." He paused for a moment and asked, "Do you want to get your memories back?"