

Departure with a Belly Chapter 551

Departure with a Belly Chapter 551

Chapter 551 Blank Memories

However, before she could fully form that thought, the elevator stopped on another floor, and more people

entered.

As more people entered, those inside the elevator naturally squeezed into the corners. Alaric was pushed forward by the crowd and took two steps forward, causing Victoria to stumble a bit as well.

In the next moment, she instinctively tightened her grip around his waist, and their bodies pressed closely together.

She heard his laughter from above. It was deep and pleasant.

“You should have hugged me earlier, shouldn’t you?”

Upon hearing his words, Victoria couldn’t help but pout and pinch his waist.

Hiss.

Alaric gasped due to her pinch and caught hold of her restless hand while lowering his voice. “Don’t be naughty.”

The elevator was crowded, and they would be arriving at her company soon. He was afraid that if she continued pinching him like that, it wouldn’t look good when they got out.

Since their bodies were pressed tightly against each other, Victoria clearly felt something when she pinched him earlier. Her gaze changed slightly, and she silently criticized herself in her heart before she stopped the pinching and only held him lightly.

As the elevator ascended, Alaric felt the crowd behind him and let out a sigh.

“What if we change the location for the company?”

The place she rented for her company was shared with other companies, and there was only one elevator that everyone used to go upstairs, which was quite inconvenient.

Victoria blinked her eyes and replied, “Forget it. If I could change it, I would have done so earlier. I wouldn’t

have to wait until now.”

Although she had no memories, she knew that she must have chosen this place before due to financial constraints. Otherwise, who wouldn’t want a large and beautiful office environment as well as a dedicated

elevator?

Upon hearing her words, Alaric subconsciously spoke up. “But now I’m here, right? I can help you change it.”

It was supposed to be a heartwarming statement. However, it sounded different when Victoria heard it.

She looked at his handsome face, blinked her eyes lightly, and whispered, “What do you mean by ‘Now I’m

here”?”

Alaric’s expression changed slightly after he heard her words, and the smile on his lips faded a bit.

He pursed his thin lips as he knew that he had said the wrong thing. Fortunately, he was quick to react, and in just a few seconds, he came up with a response.

13:54 Wed, 19 Jul G

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What I meant was, if you act a bit spoiled with me, I'll help you change the company's address right away."

Victoria said, "You're thinking too much."

Ding-

Coincidentally, the elevator doors opened at this moment, and a crowd of people exited, instantly leaving the

elevator half empty. There was plenty of space remaining.

However, Alaric still kept his hand braced against her side and did not let her go.

Instead, he stared at her

intently.

"Why am I thinking too much? Is it difficult for you to act spoiled with me?"

As he spoke, his fingertips even entwined with Victoria's dark hair. "What's there to be shy about when you're acting spoiled with your own husband?"

His voice wasn't loud, but it wasn't soft either. Furthermore, there was no one else speaking in the elevator at the moment, so his words were clearly heard by those around them. The people around couldn't help but look

at them.

Upon closer inspection, they realized that there was a handsome couple in the corner.

The couple was pleasing

to the eye, and their attire looked affluent.

People were always particularly interested in attractive things, and coupled with Alaric's words just now, the remaining people in the elevator couldn't help but look at them.

Some girls even started whispering.

“Wow! They’re actually a married couple. Finally, we’re able to see a combination of a handsome guy and a beautiful girl.”

“Yeah. It’s true that only when a truly handsome guy and a truly beautiful girl are together is it pleasing to the eye. In the past, we always saw beautiful girls with ugly guys and it was truly an eyesore.”

There were various discussions in the elevator.

Victoria blushed a little after hearing what everyone was saying. She pursed her lips and made a slight

movement to withdraw her hand.

Unfortunately, Alaric had been holding it tightly all along, and she couldn’t pull it away even if she wanted to.

It wasn’t until they reached their floor and the elevator doors opened that he led her out.

As they walked out, the girls who were discussing her even smiled at her in a friendly manner when she passed by them.

“Miss, I wish you both a long and happy marriage.”

Victoria only had time to smile at them and say thank you before the elevator doors closed.

She felt warm in her heart. She had only one thing in mind-those girls were really kind.

After walking for a while, they entered her company.

13:54 Wed, 19 July G

Why did Victoria know that this was her company? It was because a strong sense of familiarity had already emerged when she came here.

She took a glance at the decorations and the signboard in front of her while feeling that it was indeed a style

she would like.

This is... the company I established by myself?

She unconsciously reached out and touched a small sign hanging by the door of the company and let her fingertips linger on it.

After seeing her action, Alaric stood behind her and stopped.

“What’s wrong? Do you have any impressions of this place?”

Just then, Victoria’s mind flashed with a scene of her personally hanging that small sign with Henry standing

beside her.

He applauded her while saying, “Miss Selwyn, you’ve done a great job. Can you help me make one for door too?”

Victoria gladly agreed as she was excited by the recognition of her work. “Sure. No problem.”

Victoria nodded while she was lost in her thoughts.

“I seem to have a faint impression.”

Alaric asked out of curiosity, “What do you remember? Is it helpful for your memory?”

my

office

Victoria shook her head. “It doesn’t seem to be of much help, but... it’s only the first day. If I come to the company every day, I might remember more.”

“Hmm.” Alaric agreed as he nodded. “Since you have to work every day, you can come to the company every day then.”

He had initially considered changing the location for her company, but he dropped that idea now

Not only did he think that the familiar surroundings could help her recover her memories, but also because he almost slipped up in the elevator earlier.

Therefore, he decided to temporarily refrain from bringing up the topic.

Although he thought Victoria was doing well now, as she had no memories, she relied on him heavily, and he felt great about it.

However... in a certain sense, he hoped she could regain her true self.

She probably had the same thought. Otherwise, she wouldn't have stood here for so long.

"If I come to work here every day, what about the two kids..."

"Don't worry. My father will be back in a few days, and then he'll take care of Nicole and Nathan."

Alaric's father...

After losing her memory Victoria hadn't met him yet and didn't know what kind of person he was

Furthermore, she remembered something else-she only knew about Alaric's parents, but what about her own

parents?

In her blurred memories, she seemed to have an impression of her father, but as for her mother...

Her memory was blank.

She didn't know if it was because of losing her memory or if it had always been blank.

PREVIOUS

Chapter 552 The President's Wife

"What's wrong?" Alaric asked when he noticed that she seemed to be lost in her thoughts.

Victoria proceeded to share *her* thoughts with him.

Upon hearing her words, Alaric fell silent for a long time. One of the things he had been worried about since she lost her memory was exactly this.

Once she asked about her parents, she would have to experience the pain and unease she had suffered all over again because she had forgotten about it.

Was it because he mentioned his father?

If he had known, he would have postponed the topic for later.

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Victoria grew curious when he remained silent. "Is there something you don't want to talk about?"

Only then did Alaric come back to his senses. He reached out and rubbed the back of her head as he spoke softly. "No, I was just thinking that we should discuss this after you finish work. After all, we've been standing outside the company entrance for a while now. Wouldn't you like to go inside and take a look? Perhaps being inside might be more helpful for the recovery of your memory."

Alaric's reasoning made sense, and it interrupted Victoria's train of thought.

"Okay. Let's go inside and take a look first."

If she could remember something, she wouldn't need to ask others.

After saying that, she stepped forward and entered the office.

When the receptionist saw someone entering, she instinctively prepared to greet them. But the moment she saw who it was, her voice faltered in disbelief for a moment before she regained her composure.

"M-Miss Selwyn?"

Victoria paused as she was still processing whether the receptionist was referring to her when the receptionist excitedly shouted toward the interior.

"Miss Selwyn has finally returned!"

Victoria was speechless.

With just those words, the employees who were still working inside all rushed out.

“Miss Selwyn? Where’s Miss Selwyn?”

“Miss Selwyn has returned?”

“Which one is Miss Selwyn?”

During Victoria’s absence, Henry and the people specifically sent by the Cadogan Group had been diligently managing the company. So even when she was not present, the company had been well-maintained, and the newly hired employees were aware that they had a female boss. Henry often mentioned and praised her.

He praised not only her beauty but also her capabilities. He described her as a wonderful boss.

Therefore, even though they hadn’t seen Victoria, they had heard nothing but good things about her. They were full of anticipation for their boss.

Upon hearing that she had returned, they all rushed out in a swarm.

Victoria was at a loss for words.

She stood in place, bewildered, as she looked at the crowd.

All eyes were on her, with looks of familiarity, curiosity, and various other expressions.

For a moment, she felt like she was a monkey being watched.

Many people were stunned in place after seeing Victoria’s appearance. Previously, when they heard Henry praising their boss as intelligent and beautiful, they only believed him to a certain extent.

In their understanding, there were no ugly women in the world, only lazy women.

As long as women were willing to dress up and had money to support them, why wouldn’t they look good?

However, after seeing Victoria, they realized that Henry wasn’t just praising her. He was stating facts.

Because... her beauty and temperament were not the kinds that money could buy.

Even with minimal makeup, her facial features were three-dimensional and remarkable. Not only that, her

figure seemed slender yet not skinny, with all the right proportions.

There was a saying that beauty was in the eye of the beholder.

In their eyes, even her hair was beautiful.

No wonder Henry had spoken so highly of her. With her looks, she could easily compete with female celebrities

in the entertainment industry.

Furthermore... the man beside her, who was tall and handsome, looked as if they were a perfect match when

they stood together.

Some people recognized Alaric and quietly revealed his identity.

The crowd buzzed with excitement.

“Alaric...? Could it be Alaric Cadogan from the Cadogan Group?”

“Although it feels unreal, it is indeed Alaric from the Cadogan Group.”

“Why would Alaric from the Cadogan Group be here?”

“Are

you stupid? Our company has secured investment from the Cadogan Group.”

“Even if we’ve secured investment, it’s unlikely for Mr. Cadogan to appear here, right? Does that make sense?”

Everyone was speechless.

13:55 Wed, 19 Jul G

It did seem highly unlikely. After all, for the Cadogan Group, their company was as small as it got. So the reason: this man was here...

Everyone couldn’t help but set their gazes on Victoria.

It was not surprising that they would instinctively think that way. After all, this woman was so beautiful, and

Alaric was a man.

In most people's eyes, men were attracted to beautiful women, especially men with high status and power.

Perhaps to go along with the crowd's thoughts or to announce their marital relationship, Alaric extended his arm and pulled the person beside him into his embrace amid their curious gaze.

"It seems everyone is curious about the nature of our relationship."

Before Victoria could react, her waist was firmly held by Alaric, and her head rested against his chest.

Soon, she could feel vibrations coming from his chest.

"We are husband and wife."

The crowd exploded with excitement at this statement.

They had been speculating, but they never expected him to directly admit their relationship so quickly. What was even more astonishing was that they were actually husband and wife.

As for Alaric, he disappeared from the spot while holding Victoria and leaving others to speculate after dropping this bombshell.

"Miss Selwyn and Mr. Cadogan are actually husband and wife. So, does that mean our boss is the wife of the President of Cadogan Group?"

"Oh my! Does that mean we are working for a subsidiary of the Cadogan Group?"

Due to the investment from the Cadogan Group, many people were willing to work at this company. After all, if the Cadogan Group showed interest and invested money, it meant the company had excellent prospects. So, people eagerly rushed to apply for positions here.

Upon learning that they had come here for an interview, their friends, who worked at half-decent companies, responded with a somewhat sarcastic tone.

"It's just a small company favored by the Cadogan Group, and you guys are scrambling for positions as if it's a subsidiary of the Cadogan Group."

"You'd be better off finding any random company outside rather than going to such a small workshop-like company."

"That's right."

When they heard those sarcastic remarks before, it made everyone feel uncomfortable. However, they were feeling triumphant now.

They could lift their heads high and feel a sense of satisfaction.

What could they say when they meet those people again?

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Hey, didn't you say this was a small workshop-like company? It seems like Miss Selwyn is the wife of the President of Cadogan Group. That's even more prestigious than being a subsidiary!

PREVIOUS

Chapter 553 Paramour

Alaric brought Victoria to a secluded place before coming to a stop.

She felt puzzled.

“Why did you tell them about our relationship?”

Alaric's hand around her waist paused for a moment after he heard her question. He turned his head to see her confused expression and couldn't help but ask, “Why can't I tell them about our relationship?”

As he spoke, he leaned closer and his voice carried a hint of danger.

“What's wrong, Snowball? Don't you want others to know about our relationship? Is my identity not presentable?”

Victoria was speechless.

“Or perhaps... you have a paramour in the company?”

Initially, she was just curious why he chose to announce their relationship. She didn't expect him to have such. vivid imagination.

A single sentence gave rise to so many thoughts. It turned out guys would think so much as well.

Victoria looked at Alaric in front of her and blinked her eyes gently.

“I don't have my memories anymore. Even if I really have a paramour in the company, I wouldn't remember, right?”

It was evident that she was intentionally teasing him.

However, Alaric couldn't help but feel a tinge of jealousy in his heart. He pursed his lips and deliberately said, "It doesn't matter if you don't remember. If you were to have a paramour, he would reveal himself on his own."

Victoria raised an eyebrow. "If that's the case, you should look forward to seeing it."

She suddenly had another thought and continued, "You're only talking about me. What about your company? After all, your company is bigger than mine. If you wanted to keep a mistress, it would certainly be easier for you, right?"

Alaric was dumbfounded.

He didn't expect her to turn the tables on him.

Was his company big?

Heh. Wasn't she indirectly saying that if he wanted to keep a mistress, he would have plenty more choices than

her?

The jealousy that had arisen in his heart due to her attitude was alleviated at this moment.

Alaric could also sense that she cared about him. Otherwise, she wouldn't have brought up his company at this

moment.

After thinking about it, he said straightforwardly, "If you're so worried, why not bring your laptop and work at

my company?"

13:55 Wed, 19 Jul

Victoria didn't refuse him. Instead, she asked, "Can I do that? Won't it affect you if I go to your company?"

Alaric's voice was low. "Affect what?"

"Affect your mistress."

As soon as she finished speaking, she felt the grip on her waist tightened. He narrowed his eyes dangerously and said, "Snowball, you'll know whether I keep a mistress or not if you go and see for yourself."

Victoria almost had the illusion that he was about to kiss her after she felt the dangerous aura emanating from him and his scorching breath wafting on her face.

After all, they were still at the company. If he couldn't control himself and kissed her, it would be embarrassing

if someone saw them.

Victoria could only push him away at the thought of this.

"Forget it."

After speaking, she took a deep breath and lowered her head to tidy her clothes, which had been messed up

earlier.

"Forget it?"

Those two words caused a frown between Alaric's eyebrows. He was puzzled and asked, "What do you mean by forget it? Aren't you going to my company anymore?"

Could it be that she was just speaking casually earlier? In reality, she didn't want to go there, did she?

Alaric's expression turned unpleasant after he thought of this possibility.

Victoria also noticed his sudden darkening expression and immediately realized what he was thinking. She asked helplessly, "Are you angry?"

Alaric pursed his lips but still answered, "No."

She asked again, "Are you really not angry?"

"Mm."

She didn't expect him to be so stubborn.

He was clearly angry.

Victoria suppressed her amusement. Just as she was about to explain, hurried footsteps came from ahead,

followed by the appearance of a tall figure from around the corner.

"Miss Selwyn."

The moment Victoria saw him, she almost immediately confirmed that he should be the manager Alaric

mentioned.

The person who came over was indeed Henry.

After finishing his work, he heard from the company's employees that Victoria had come to the company, and not only her but also Alaric.

13:55 Wed, 19 July G

Upon hearing the news, Henry hurried over. When he saw Victoria, he was quite excited. It had been a long

time since he last saw her..

Back then, she had suddenly left and disappeared as if she had gone missing, which made Henry quite worried, He was afraid that something had happened to her.

He finally felt relieved after seeing her standing in front of him now safely and in good health.

After all, Henry couldn't find such good treatment anywhere else.

After greeting Victoria, he also greeted Alaric.

"Mr. Cadogan, you're here too."

Alaric's expression wasn't particularly good due to the incident just now, but Henry was an important person in Victoria's company. Even if he was unhappy, he still nodded and responded.

Henry keenly sensed something, but he didn't voice his thoughts. Instead, he smiled and led Victoria to the office while talking to her about work.

Since Victoria hadn't been to the company for a long time, there were many work matters that needed to be handed over. She was a bit confused at first, but she became serious once she had gotten the hang of it.

As she had work to handle, there was no place for Alaric to stay in the office. In the end, he could only sit on

the couch and wait for her.

While Henry was coordinating with Victoria, he occasionally glanced at Alaric sitting on the distant couch and whispered, "Miss Selwyn, why did Mr. Cadogan come with you?"

After asking, he remembered something else and said, "Also, Miss Selwyn, why didn't you tell me that you two are actually in that kind of relationship?"

Victoria was startled at the question.

Thinking about the announcement Alaric made in the company earlier, she quickly connected the dots in her mind. She also had some speculations, so she decided to follow his words and ask, "Didn't I tell you before?"

"No, you didn't."

Victoria didn't show any signs of amnesia, so Henry didn't know about it. When she asked this question, he subconsciously thought she wanted to tell him but had forgotten.

"Tsk." Henry looked at Alaric's figure and said, "If I had known that you were husband and wife, I wouldn't have worried about you before. Since you are husband and wife, how did it turn into such a mess before? Did you have a fight?"

Victoria's heart sank after she heard what Henry said. What had turned into such a mess?

She pursed her lips and asked directly, "Do you remember the day you started working here?"

This question didn't seem strange to Henry. After all, someone might not want to answer the question, so they would ask something else to divert attention.

So, he openly stated the date he started working.

After speaking, he added meaningfully, "Miss Selwyn, even if you don't want to answer my question, there's no need to use this kind of diversion tactic, right?"

However, Victoria fell into her own thoughts.

His start date coincided closely with the date she posted on her Facebook. Furthermore, he didn't know about her relationship with Alaric...

PREVIOUS

Chapter 554 When Am I Not Concerned About You?

It seemed that the incident that happened before must have been very complicated.

However, Victoria couldn't remember anything now. She pursed her lips and was deep in thought.

"Miss Selwyn? Miss Selwyn?"

It wasn't until Henry called her twice in a row and waved his hand in front of her that she snapped back to

reality.

"What's wrong?" he asked with concern. He had initially thought that she didn't want to answer his question, so she asked about his date of employment to divert his attention. But now, judging from her behavior, it seemed

that wasn't the case.

She seemed to be asking about his date of employment very seriously, and it seemed like she had thought of

something related to his date of employment.

Anyone who could become a high-level executive in a big company couldn't lack a keen sense, could they?

Henry connected the dots and realized that something was amiss. He subconsciously looked toward Alaric, who was sitting on the couch.

He noticed that Alaric's expression was as cold as before.

He looked at the documents in his hand, then thought about Alaric who had given him a salary raise sitting on the couch. Suddenly, he said, "Miss Selwyn, you've just returned to the company. There's no need to rush with these matters. Besides, I can handle these small things perfectly fine on my own. How about you just take a look today and then go home to rest?"

Victoria was speechless.

She looked at him strangely and felt puzzled.

"I've only just arrived at the company, and you're asking me to go home and rest?"

Henry rubbed the back of his head, and from the corner of his eye, he noticed that Alaric, who was sitting on the couch, had a less cold aura than before.

It seemed that he was going in the right direction.

So, he continued, "Yes. You should go back and rest. You've just returned to the company, and it seems like you've lost a lot of weight during the time you weren't here. Is it because you haven't been feeling well?"

When he brought up this matter, Victoria couldn't refute it because her weight loss was evident, and it couldn't

be denied.

Anyone could see it at a glance.

After seeing her pursing her lips without responding, he said, "Miss Selwyn, why don't you go back and rest? If you're concerned about the company's affairs, you can come over for a while every day. I'll inform you of any important matters and I can handle the rest."

Having said that, it seemed that there was nothing for Victoria to refuse. She thought for a moment and finally nodded.

13:55 Wed, 19 Jul C

Well... All right."

Henry saw that he had achieved his goal, and he couldn't help but glance through his peripheral vision at the tall and handsome man on the couch.

When he looked over, he happened to see the man looking meaningfully in their direction.

Henry couldn't help scratching his head. It seemed that he had handled this matter quite well.

"Miss Selwyn, you can stay here a bit longer today and go back later. I shall take my leave now since I have other things to attend to."

"All right. You go ahead and take care of your business."

Once Henry left, Alaric, who had been sitting on the couch, walked directly over to Victoria.

"Are you tired?"

His voice was deep, and his tone wasn't particularly pleasant. He still felt bitter because of what happened earlier, but he still showed his concern for Victoria, and he took the initiative to speak up.

She had originally planned to finish her work before going to see him and to soothe the emotions she hadn't comforted earlier. However, she didn't expect him to come and show his concern for her first.

Victoria's heart softened when she thought of this, and when he approached her, she leaned into his embrace.

Alaric was taken aback, but subconsciously reached out and caught her.

He lowered his head and looked at Victoria, who slightly closed her eyes and rested her cheek on his chest.

“Maybe it’s because I haven’t worked for a long time, so I feel a bit exhausted.”

Alaric’s brows furrowed in instant concern after he heard her words. “You’re exhausted? Are you feeling uncomfortable?”

After detecting the nervousness in his tone, Victoria couldn’t help but chuckle.

“I just feel mentally exhausted from dealing with work. I didn’t say I’m physically uncomfortable. Why are you so worried?”

Alaric felt helpless.

“When was I worried?”

“Weren’t you just worried earlier?”

“Well, it’s just appropriate concern. What’s wrong? Is there a problem?”

She realized that he cared for her but didn’t want to admit it. It seemed that he was still feeling bitter about what happened earlier. Victoria thought for a moment, then moved her hand down and found his other hand

that had remained motionless at his side.

She leaned closer and took the initiative to hold his hand while entwining their fingers.

In an instant, she felt his body tremble.

13:56 Wed, 19 Jul & G

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She couldn’t help but smile inwardly when she tilted her head and coincidentally met Alaric’s lowered head.

Their gazes met.

“After we’re done here, shall we go to your company?”

Victoria’s eyes were clear, like a clear lake, shimmering with ripples under the office lights. Alaric stared at her

and felt a bit dazed.

“Why?” His voice was hoarse, and the hand placed on Victoria’s waist tightened slightly, while the other hand she held remained still, only feeling the warmth of her small palm.

This warmth filled his heart with passion, but as he recalled what she had said earlier, there was still a hint of

bitterness in his heart.

“You said it’s not important earlier, didn’t you?”

“Yes,” Victoria admitted straightforwardly. “I did say it’s not important before.”

After hearing that, Alaric darkened his eyes. “So, you don’t care about me at all.”

Victoria suppressed her laughter. “Where did you get the idea that I don’t care about you? It’s precisely because

I care about you that I decided not to go, okay?”

Alaric was puzzled.

He stared at her in confusion. “What do you mean?”

“You still need to recover from your injury. You’ve already been out for a long time today. We should

go

back.”

After finishing her sentence, Victoria saw his bewildered expression and asked, “What’s wrong? Could it be that you’ve forgotten about your injury as soon as you started feeling better? Or perhaps changing the bandage once a day has made you overconfident?”

Alaric received an earful again due to this incident. Initially, he still felt a bit bitter after thinking that she didn’t care about him and didn’t want to go to his company. Who would have thought that she actually cared more about his injury?

So at this moment, the bitterness in his heart had disappeared and was replaced by a sense of satisfaction

from her concern.

This satisfaction made him unconsciously lower his head while burying his head in her neck and greedily inhaling the fragrance from her body.

“I’m not overconfident.”

He said hoarsely, "I just forgot about it for a moment there. It's amazing that you remembered."

"If I don't remember it, who will?"

"Mm," he willingly responded. "Remember it for me then."

As soon as he finished speaking, the hand that had been motionless in her grasp finally tightly held hers.

Victoria felt it, and the fog in her heart was dispelled.

"So, shall we go back now?"

"Okay."

Although he said okay, he didn't make a move and just continued holding her.

She waited for a while and wondered why he wasn't moving. Just as she was about to raise her head to ask, her chin was held tightly.

PREVIOUS

Chapter 555 Won't Affect Me Kissing You

Alaric's searing breath fanned across her face, and before Victoria could react, she felt his lips on top of hers.

"Mmph."

The sudden kiss caused her to freeze in place, not expecting him to pounce on her in the office. The sensation on her lips was both warm and soft, and Alaric's scent mingled with her breath and penetrated her senses.

Soon, Victoria recovered from her bewilderment and began to press her hands against his chest, pushing him away from her. "Mmph... No... We're at the office....."

If anyone walked in on them, she would never be able to recover from the embarrassment. Hence, Victoria leaned backward as she spoke, trying to avoid his kiss.

After she dodged him twice, the man before her stopped in displeasure before he immediately reached out to hold the back of her neck, his low and hoarse voice thick with unsatisfied lust.

“What are you hiding for?”

As Victoria glanced at him, she was immediately taken aback by his deep stare. Ever since reuniting with Alaric, she had never seen such a look on him—his eyes were so dark it was as if they contained an endless void inside, magnetic and emptying, as if she would be swallowed whole at any moment.

As she recalled their fervent kiss and met his dark gaze, her fair skin uncontrollably flushed crimson.

She even reflexively turned her face away to avoid his eyes as she stammered, “W—What if someone comes

in...”

Alaric replied hoarsely, “Nobody will come in.”

Victoria was momentarily rendered speechless. “How do you know that?”

“Besides Mr. Poole, who would dare to enter your office without permission? Besides, even Mr. Poole has to knock before coming in, right?”

“R—

Really?” As Victoria had not completely recovered her memory, she was unaware of this fact.

“Yeah.”

Unexpectedly, Alaric answered her question firmly. Although this company did not belong to him, he replied as if he were the owner of the company instead of her.

Once he replied to her, Alaric tightened his grip on the back of her neck and began to lower his body to kiss her

again. However, Victoria reflexively dodged aside as he approached, causing him to miss her lips once more.

Even though she had not expected their first kiss, it allowed him to get a taste of the sweetness he had long desired, and it was much more delightful than he had imagined. In the end, what was supposed to be a brief taste ended in him being unwilling to let go. And yet, before he could fully savor her, she denied his touch.

When he hadn't received his desired kiss even after explaining things to her, Alaric was filled with dissatisfaction and stared at her intently, his hand subconsciously tightening behind her neck. However, although he was possessive, he did not apply enough force to hurt her.

"Why are you hiding again?"

Victoria's ears flushed red at the sound of his voice that had completely gone hoarse. "I ..."

Upon noticing her ears that had turned completely crimson, Alaric felt his displeasure dissipating somewhat, and a smile appeared on the corners of his lips as he teasingly pinched the tips of her ears.

"Why are you so shy? Are you too embarrassed to let me kiss you, or are you afraid that someone will walk in?"

While it was true that Victoria was embarrassed, she was more worried that someone would walk in. If

someone saw them in their current situation, she would completely lose her authority as their superior.

A long pause later, she finally said, "We shouldn't kiss here, let's wait-"

"No."

At first, Victoria was about to tell him to wait until they got home when she was interrupted by Alaric before

she could finish. "I don't want to wait."

As soon as his words fell, Victoria felt a force lifting off the back of her neck. Then, she watched as Alaric turned

around and headed toward the door.

Seeing that, she assumed that he was angered by her rejection. His warmth still lingered on the parts of her body that he had touched, and now she only felt empty.

Where *is he* going?

Just as Victoria was pondering over this question, Alaric had already arrived at the entrance and raised a hand, locking the door. Seeing this, Victoria, who had thought that he was about to leave in a fit of anger, was

rendered silent.

She stood frozen in place, watching as he headed back toward her after locking the door, a hint of ferocity in his eyes. More accurately, it was the sheer darkness in his eyes that made him seem so ferocious. Now, Victoria was like prey that was at the mercy of a wolf, and this wolf was a fierce and charismatic one.

When she recalled how she had stopped him from doing anything with her due to his injuries, Victoria was immediately filled with a strong sense of danger. Sensing that she was most likely unable to escape, she reflexively circled around the desk and stood at the other end before he walked over.

At the same time, her movements caused Alaric to stop in his tracks. Then, he steadied himself and looked at her, both amused and exasperated. "What are you hiding for, Snowball? If you're afraid that someone will come in, that won't happen. I've already locked the door."

What a joke. It is precisely because you locked the door that I'm even more afraid now. When the door was still unlocked, he might still hold himself back out of consideration that someone might walk in at any moment. But now that the door was locked and seeing how ravenous he was earlier, Victoria was genuinely worried that he might devour her whole if she submitted to him.

Even so, she did not detest the motion; rather, she only felt that it was unacceptable to commit such an act in a place like this. What if she made an indescribable sound and was overheard by the people next door or a passerby? Either way, she had gone through every single possibility in her mind, and she firmly believed that she could not accept this.

When she remained immobile, Alaric grew impatient from waiting—or perhaps, his yearning further intensified, begging to be let out. He propped his hands on the table, his intent gaze boring into her.

“Snowball, come here.”

Victoria only froze for a few seconds before she decisively refused, “No.”

She knew all too well what would happen if she went to his side.

Her actions amused Alaric, and he asked, “How long do you think you can hide from me?”

As he said these words, he began to stroll toward her languidly.

With every step he took, Victoria took a step backward, saying, “Can’t you control yourself? Your wounds...”

Before she could finish, Alaric said, “They’re healed.”

“It’s only been a few days. How can they be healed?” Then, a thought occurred to her and she added, “Besides you just promised me not to go to the office.”

“Yeah, I promised you not to go to the office, but I never promised not to kiss you.”

His voice was clear, and his steps began to quicken.

“Even if my wounds aren’t healed yet, it won’t affect me kissing you, right?”

His constant mention of kissing distracted Victoria, and before she could return to her senses, he soon caught up to her with his swift strides and swept her into his embrace.

“Snowball...”

Alaric’s breath was hot as he pulled her into his arms before lowering his head, desperately searching for her soft lips. His movements were urgent, as if he were a thirsty man who had just stumbled upon an oasis in a var