Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 511

Chapter 511 An Invitation to Dance

At that thought, Sonia hastened her footsteps and hurried back to the hall. She weaved through the people in the crowd as she looked left and right to search for Toby. After walking around the whole place, she finally found him in a corner.

Toby wasn't standing alone—he was talking to a woman who stood in front of him. The woman wasn't especially pretty, but she was tall and elegant and looked like the daughter of some rich family. It seemed like Toby was close to this woman because they clinked glasses while chit-chatting with each other.

Sonia caught Toby smiling at the woman. That woman's even fixing the brooch on his suit... All of a sudden, Sonia's footsteps came to a halt. Her palms were pressed down onto her sides as she felt an inexplicable surge of rage and bitterness filling her chest. She felt extremely terrible.

Zane was standing right behind Sonia, and he let out a bitter sigh after taking a look at Toby and shifting his gaze to Sonia's trembling figure. She really fell in love with Toby again. Otherwise, she wouldn't have reacted like this when she saw Toby interacting with another woman. I'm standing a few feet away from her, but I can sense her jealousy from where I'm standing. However, I don't care. I'm not going to give up just yet, Zane thought. She doesn't know that she's in love with Toby, so I still have a chance. I need to turn her into my girlfriend before she realizes her own feelings for Toby. Everything would be too late otherwise. At that thought, Zane took a deep breath and hid his intentions before he walked over with a smile. "What are you looking at, Sonia?" He posed her that question although he already knew the answer.

Sonia bit her lip when she heard his voice. "It's nothing," she uttered.

Zane pretended to follow her gaze to look in the direction her eyes had been fixed upon. "Hey, isn't that Emily?"

"Emily ?" she asked.

"Yeah, the lady talking to Toby," Zane replied with a nod.

Sonia lowered her gaze. "Do you think Emily and Toby are..." When she realized that her response seemed inappropriate, she quickly shook her head and waved her arms. "No, what I meant was... I don't think I've seen her around. I've never heard of her, either. If she's able to interact with Toby in such a natural manner, I'm sure she must be someone of high status, right ?"

Zane knew what Sonia was actually curious about—she wanted to find out about Emily and Toby's relationship. However, since she didn't clarify her question, he pretended not to understand what she meant.

"I don't think so. Emily's from a third-rate family and she doesn't stay in Seafield, so it makes sense that you don't know who she is. However, her family has a pretty close relationship with the Fullers, and she's pretty close to Toby as well," Zane said to Sonia.

"A pretty close relationship..." Sonia's chest tightened when she heard Zane's words. She stole a glance at the two people who were chit-chatting in the corner, and she forced a smile. "I can tell that he treats Emily differently from the way he treats other women. He's patiently listening to her, and he smiles at her a lot—that's how I know that they have a special relationship."

Zane knew that she was overthinking Emily's relationship with Toby when he saw the bitter smile on her face. A pang of guilt struck him when he realized what he had done. However, that sense of guilt quickly disappeared as he raised his head and took a sip of his wine. He realized that he had no duty to clarify Emily and Toby's relationship. Humans were selfish creatures, and he was no different. He had to be a little manipulative to gain attention from the woman he liked, and he didn't see anything wrong with that.

"By the way, Sonia, the dance is about to start, and I don't have a partner. May I have this first dance with you?" Zane looked into Sonia's eyes as he asked her in a sincere tone.

Sonia's instant thought was to reject him, but before he could say anything, she saw Toby and Emily moving in for a hug. Her pupils shrank as a surge of fire burned in her chest. She clenched her fists, then turned to look at Zane. "Okay!" She agreed to dance with him.

Zane clearly knew that she had only said yes because she was triggered by the sight of Toby and Emily hugging each other, but why did that matter? What mattered was that she was now his dance partner.

Zane grinned as he gave Sonia an elegant bow. "Well, let's dance, my beautiful lady."

Sonia took a look at the two people who were still hugging each other, and her gaze dimmed as she took a deep breath and lifted her dress. She gave Zane a tiny curtsy to accept his invitation before she placed her hand in his. Zane grinned widely when their hands touched. Then, he gently wrapped his hand around hers before he led her out to the dance floor.

Both of them had just started walking when Toby turned his head to see the two of them holding hands and walking away from him. His expression changed immediately. Sonia and Zane... They're holding hands with each other and walking toward the dance floor. Are they going to have a dance together?

When Toby realized what was going on, he tightened his grip around his wine glass. He held onto his glass so hard that his hand began to tremble, and the wine inside shook along with his strong grip. The dark aura surrounding his figure was terrifying, and Emily quickly realized his change in mood. "What's up with you, my little cousin?" she asked as she wiped the smile off her face.

Toby didn't answer her question, but fixed his hateful gaze on the two figures who had arrived at the dance floor and were waiting for the music to play. Emily followed his gaze to see the couple who was already in a dancing stance, and she seemed to understand the situation immediately. "Is that the woman you're in love with ?" she asked with a gentle smile on her face.

Toby pressed his lips together without answering her question. Emily swirled her wine glass as she looked at him. "Well, why did you get a divorce with her if you have feelings for her?"

"You don't understand, Emily." Toby lowered his gaze as he spoke in a flat tone.

Emily shrugged. "Fine. I might not understand the whole situation, but your beloved lady is about to dance with Zane. Are you just going to stand around and watch them?" Since Emily was Toby's cousin, she was siding with Toby this time. Since Sonia was the woman Toby fancied, she hoped that he would do something to get the woman back to his side.

But Toby merely pursed his lips without saying anything. After a few seconds of silence, he took a sip of his red wine before placing the glass down on the waiter's tray. "Dance with me, Emily." He turned to look at Emily.

"You want me to dance ?" Emily glanced at Toby's left arm and raised an eyebrow. "Look, it's not that I don't want to dance with you, but your arm..."

"I'm fine. Come on," Toby said as he reached his right arm out to her. Emily let out a helpless sigh. "Fine. Since you're asking me in such a nice manner, I guess I'll have one dance with you." She lowered her glass and placed her hand into his as she spoke.

Toby took her hand before he led her over to the dance floor. By then, there were already a good number of couples who had gathered around to dance. They were all in their positions and poses, waiting for the music to start.

Sonia and Zane were standing in the middle of the dance floor. As Sonia looked at all the couples around her, she deeply regretted her decision to have a dance with Zane, but it was too late to change her mind. She couldn't go back on her words after agreeing to his request. If she decided not to dance then, the other guests might laugh at him, and it would be her fault. She had no choice but to force herself to dance an entire song with him.

As she was contemplating her decision, she noticed a figure walking over. There was a fresh, minty scent that came along with the person. Sonia's expression stiffened as she turned to look in the direction of the pleasant smell, and she saw Toby and Emily walking over for a dance. They had occupied the spot right beside Zane and Sonia.

Sonia bit her lip as she felt an uneasy feeling in her chest. Why? They can dance if they want to, but why do they have to stand beside us?

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Chapter 512 Exchanging Dance Partners

If we're standing so close to each other, then she will see us, and... Sonia lowered her head. Her expression had obviously turned sour. Zane spotted the change in his partner, and he quickly understood the reason for her bad mood when he saw Toby and Emily near them. It made sense—how could one expect Sonia to be happy when she was watching her lower dancing with another woman in front of her ? Furthermore, she had just realized that she had fallen for Toby again.

Zane sighed under his breath before he turned to greet Toby and Emily. "Hey, guys. Are you here to dance too?"

"Yeah. I'm here upon someone else's request," Emily uttered as she patted Toby's shoulder. Toby shot her a look to tell her not to touch him wherever she pleased. Then, he turned to focus all of his attention on Sonia. Sonia sensed someone looking at her, but she couldn't tell who it was. However, she didn't lift her head to check—she didn't want to do such a thing. She knew that her mood would worsen if she looked up to see Toby and Emily standing together.

When Toby noticed that Sonia was completely ignoring him, he pursed his lips. The atmosphere around him seemed to turn heavier than before. Upon realizing this, Emily looked around a few times before she curled her lips into a smile. "Who's this dance partner of yours, Zane?" she asked with an ulterior motive.

"..." Zane didn't know how to respond. If I say that she's from the Reed Family, Emily will immediately realize that she's Toby's ex-wife. Things will seem weird if she finds out that Toby's friend is dancing with Toby's ex-wife. Sonia could sense that Zane was placed in a tough spot.

Well, Emily has already asked about me. It doesn't matter whether I'm doing it out of courtesy or if I'm trying to help Zane out of his tough spot—I'll have to speak up either way. I can't pretend that I don't see them anymore. Sonia took a deep breath before she looked up, and her gaze swept past Toby's figure to land on Emily's face. "Hello, my name is Sonia Reed."

"Sonia Reed. Doesn't that mean that you're..." Emily acted surprised as she turned to stare at Toby.

Sonia nodded. "Yeah. I'm President Fuller's ex-wife. However, you don't need to worry about anything as we're no longer involved in each other's lives."

Toby knitted his brows when he heard her words. What does she mean by that? Could she have misunderstood something?

Similarly, Emily froze for a moment, but she chuckled when she realized what was going on. "You're a really interesting person, Miss Reed. Toby and I aren't—"

"Emily." Zane sensed his opportunities being threatened, so he hastily interrupted their conversation. "Emily, Toby, the song is about to start. We can talk later, alright? There are a lot of people here. Why don't Sonia and I free up this space for you? We can dance on that side of the floor. We don't want to bump into each other while dancing, right?" With that said, he dragged Sonia over to the other side.

Emily stroked her chin when she watched the other couple walking off. "Zane cut me off intentionally, Toby. It seems like he doesn't want your ex-wife to know about our relationship."

"I know." Toby nodded. "He likes Sonia too." Zane probably noticed that I have caught feelings for Sonia again, Toby thought. That's why he wants Sonia to continue misunderstanding my relationship with Emily. That's the only way she will stay away from me. I can't believe Zane's using these manipulative tactics now, Toby thought as he glared at Zane. Toby's eyes narrowed as if he were keeping watch on a potential threat.

"What? He likes Sonia too?" Emily was too shocked to wrap her head around the situation. "B-But how could he like Sonia? He's your friend; shouldn't he..."

"It's fine." Toby parted his thin lips to speak in an icy tone. "I won't let them get together even if he likes her." Sonia can only belong to me!

"What are you going to do now ?" Emily asked him curiously, but Toby didn't give her a direct answer and changed the topic. "The music is playing, Emily."

Waltz music filled the room, and everyone on the dance floor began to move along to the rhythm of the music—one step forward, one step to the side, a spin, and another step backward. The Waltz wasn't as upbeat as some other social dances, but a more elegant and gentle form of dance that was pleasant to the eyes.

Although Sonia was dancing with Zane, all of her attention was on Toby. It felt as if acid was corroding the surface of her heart as she watched Toby dancing with Emily. He injured his left arm, yet he insisted on dancing with Emily. It shows that Emily means a lot to him.

Zane's lips curled downward when he realized that Sonia was focusing on Toby. He instinctively tightened his arm around her waist to pull her close to him. Sonia hadn't expected Zane to do such a thing, so she stumbled and fell into his arms. "What are you doing?" she asked as she glared at Zane with a slight frown, clearly displeased with his actions.

Zane beamed. "You're my dance partner, but you've been looking at someone else the whole time. You should at least show me some respect, right ?"

Sonia realized that her actions had been inappropriate after hearing what Zane said. "I'm sorry. I..." She looked at the ground.

"Alright, forget it. Spin." Zane removed his arm from her waist before he raised her right hand up. Like the rest of the ladies on the dance floor, Sonia went along the direction of the lifted right hand to spin around in her spot. After she spun, Zane placed his hand on her waist again. They came face to face with each other, and they continued dancing.

Meanwhile, Toby narrowed his eyes when he saw Zane and Sonia together, and he muttered to Emily, "I need your help during the last part of the dance, Emily."

"What are you going to do?" Emily looked at him.

"During the final spin of the dance, I'm going to try to snatch Sonia over from Zane," he stated before pressing his lips together. Emily giggled when she heard what Toby wanted to do. "That sounds pretty romantic. Okay, let me help you with that." "Thank you." After thanking her, Toby took Emily's hand and led her closer to Zane and Sonia. When they got closer, Toby and Emily returned to their dance position and continued waltzing.

Since Toby and Emily were standing behind Sonia, she didn't realize that they had sneaked up behind her. Zane, on the other hand, was quick to realize that something was wrong. His eyelids twitched when he saw Toby. Toby's doing this on purpose. He's coming over intentionally. Judging by the excited look on Emily's face, they might be planning something.

Zane had a bad feeling in his heart. He frowned for a moment before he realized that he could bring Sonia away from them to dance in another spot as well. However, before Zane could start moving, the song's tempo changed from a gentle pace to a more exciting and upbeat one.

They were at the climax of the Waltz—this was also the part where the dance was supposed to get a little more exciting. The male and female partners would have to separate at this part—the male had to push the female about ten feet away from him, and the female would take two large twirls to return into the male's arms. This part was also the most fun part to watch during waltzes.

Zane had no choice but to forget about changing spots for a while. He decided that he would bring Sonia away after they completed the two huge twirls. However, the moment Zane pushed Sonia out and away from him, Emily spun over and stopped in front of Zane. Toby, on the other hand, showed up in front of Sonia.

With one hand holding Sonia's arm, Toby led her back to the spot he had been dancing with Emily. Sonia was too stunned to respond.

"Sonia—" Zane panicked and was about to run over when he saw what was going on. However, Emily put her hand on his shoulder and smiled. "I'm sorry that Toby stole your dance partner today, Zane. But it's fine—I'm the compensation you get for that. We can be dance partners for the rest of the night."

Zane's lips twitched. Why would I want to dance with you? "You and Toby did this intentionally, right, Emily?" Zane shot Emily a disdainful stare.

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Chapter 513 She's My Cousin

Emily twirled in front of Zane before resting her hand on top of his shoulder once more. She acted like she didn't understand his question and asked, "What do you mean, Zane ?"

"There's no need to put on a show at this point, Emily. You and Toby came over to dance beside Sonia and me because you guys wanted to exchange partners during the climax of the song, right?" Zane cast an angry glare at Emily.

She spread her red lips into a smile. "Fine, fine; I guess we didn't manage to trick you after all. I can't help it. Toby's my cousin, so I have to help him to get the girl he likes, right?"

"That may be true, but don't you think it's a little too immoral to help him snatch a girl from another guy's arms?" Zane pushed Emily away as he stopped dancing with her. She staggered backward before steadying herself. Despite Zane's harsh treatment, she didn't seem angry at all—she merely tidied her long hair while speaking with a smile. "I don't think it's immoral at all. You're not dating Sonia, so this is a fair competition. I guess it might be a little unfair for you since you don't have a helper, but... I'm sure you can tell that Toby and Sonia are in love with each other, Zane. Do you think the partner exchange would have gone so smoothly if they didn't have feelings for each other?" If Sonia hadn't been interested in Toby, she wouldn't have gone along with him even if he dragged her over. She might have even slapped him on the face.

However, Sonia did none of that and allowed Toby to lead the way. This showed that deep down, Sonia wanted to dance with Toby too. Zane quickly realized what Emily meant, and he clenched his fists after he turned to look at Toby and Sonia, who were already dancing. "I know that they're in love, but..." Zane's heart was filled with resentment.

"Since they're in love, why don't we just support their relationship?" Emily interrupted him with the wave of a hand. "I know you like Sonia, but what's the use of you being stubborn when she isn't going to reciprocate your feelings for her? You will end up hurting yourself, and you will still end up seeing Toby and Sonia together. Letting go would be the wisest thing to do here," Emily advised.

Zane hung his head low. I understand all of that, of course. But I just can't bring myself to let go of this. Although the public knows me as a playboy, I've never truly fallen for anyone. This is the first time I've properly fallen in love with a girl—how could I let go when I just caught feelings for someone?

After a moment of silence, Emily stepped forward and held onto Zane's arms. "We can talk about this later. Let's continue the dance, Zane; this is the last part of the song."

"Forget it. I'm not in the mood. You can dance on your own," he muttered while brushing her hands off. Then, he turned to walk off the dance floor and toward the hall's exit.

Emily stuck her tongue out as she watched Zane leave. "Oh, dear. I seemed to have broken a young man's heart. The number of sins I've committed just for the sake of you, Toby!" she mumbled to herself while she watched the rest of the couples dancing.

On the other side of the dance floor, Sonia had started regaining her senses after the initial shock of being pulled away by Toby. She tried to extract her hand from Tony's hand, but his grip felt like a clamp, not allowing her to escape at all. He was holding her hand in a skilled manner—his grip was firm enough that she couldn't leave, yet it wasn't hard enough to hurt her.

"Let go of me, Toby!" Sonia hissed as she frowned at him.

He looked at her. "Stop moving around. My body's still weak, and I only have one functioning arm. If you move around too much, you might bump into my other arm and dislocate it again. What are you going to do then ?"

"You're the one who's asking for it! Why did you go onto the dance floor when you're still not well? How do you expect yourself to dance with a sling around your arm?" Sonia shot him an exasperated glare.

His gaze darkened upon her words. "I can't help it. I just felt like dancing all of a sudden." He couldn't bear to see Sonia and Zane dancing together, but he couldn't charge in to pull them apart as that would ruin his grandmother's party. So, he had no choice but to go onto the dance floor himself before coming up with a scheme to steal Sonia away from Zane's arms. However, Sonia didn't know any of that. When she heard Toby say he felt a sudden urge to dance, her first thought was of him dancing with Emily. Rage burned inside her and she stared at him unhappily. "If you want to dance, then why did you bring me over? Why don't you let go of me and dance with your partner, Emily, instead?"

"Are you jealous right now ?" Toby raised an eyebrow.

"What?" Sonia looked like a cat whose tail had been stepped on—her expression was one of utter shock. A hint of panic appeared in her gaze as she increased her volume to defend herself. "What nonsense are you talking about? Jealous? Why would I be jealous?" I don't love him, so what's there to be jealous about? Yeah! That's right! There's nothing to be jealous about. Sonia bit her lip and nodded to herself.

Toby smirked when he saw the look on her face. "Sure, sure. You're not jealous. Regardless, there's no need for me to go to her," he uttered.

"Why?" Sonia was puzzled.

Toby remained calm and collected even as he told Sonia a lie. "My beloved cousin wanted to dance with Zane," he explained.

"Wait. What? Your cousin?" Sonia looked up at Toby in surprise. Did I hear him wrongly? He called her his cousin, right?

Toby nodded. "Yeah. Emily's my cousin. Her full name is Emily Johann, and her mother is my mother's cousin. That's how we're related."

Cousin... They're cousins! Emily's his cousin, not his love interest. So, I've misunderstood the situation all along... Sonia pressed her lips together and lowered her head when she realized what she had done. Her face was beet red, and she felt a mixture of embarrassment and joy as she processed the situation. She didn't know what she was happy about, but she could feel her entire body relaxing. It felt as if a huge rock had been lifted off her chest—she even felt like she could breathe better.

Love and care spilled out of Toby's gaze when he saw Sonia smiling to herself. I know that now's not the right time, but I really wish I could pull her close for a hug. I have to control myself. I just have to wait for a while more, he said to himself.

The song ended after a while, and their dance came to an end. Sonia and Toby came to stand beside each other, and they held hands while they bowed to all the guests who had been standing around them and watching them dance. The guests let out loud cheers for all the dancers. While the crowd was still clapping, Sonia straightened herself and pulled her hand out of Toby's.

Toby's eyes glinted with sorrow when he first looked at his empty hand, but he quickly readjusted himself. Right then, Mary helped Rose back into the hall, and they headed directly for the stage. It seemed as if Rose was about to give a speech.

Toby turned to look at Sonia. "I'll go over since Grandma's about to give a speech. You can sit and get some rest, or you can get yourself some food," he suggested.

"Okay," she replied. After that, Toby parted his long legs and strode in Rose's direction while Sonia turned to head to the resting area. She hadn't danced in a long while, so she felt exhausted after the performance. When she got to the couches, she poured herself a glass of juice before she rested on one of the seats and took small sips of her drink.

From her seat, she could see Rose and Toby speaking on the stage. However, her movements froze as she suddenly realized something. Where's Zane? I don't think I've seen him since Toby brought me away. She hastily put her juice aside before she got up and looked around in search of Zane. However, after looking around the whole place, she couldn't find him anywhere. A mixture of guilt and shame bubbled up in her chest.

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Chapter 514 I'm Waiting for Her

Sonia was supposed to be Zane's dance partner, after all. She had accepted his invitation, but she ended up abandoning him and walking off with Toby. At least he has Emily as his partner, Sonia thought. At least he didn't end up in an awkward situation where he was left alone. Regardless, Sonia knew that she had broken her promise with Zane the moment she walked off with Toby. She knew that she owed Zane an apology.

At that thought, Sonia massaged her temples before she pulled her handphone out of her bag to give Zane a call. Zane picked up after a few seconds, and he didn't sound the least bit amused as he spoke in a glum voice. "Sonia."

"Where are you, Zane?" she asked.

He was silent for two seconds before he responded. "I'm in the car."

"The car?" Sonia froze for a second. "Mhmm," Zane replied before he honked lightly. Sonia tightened her grip on her phone when she heard the sound of the vehicle in the background of the call. "Did you go home?"

"Yeah," Zane said honestly.

"Why? The party isn't over yet—why did you leave all of a sudden?" Sonia bit her lower lip.

"I've been there for a while already, so I don't think it makes a difference if I stay for the second half of the party." He steered the car with one hand as he continued talking. "Why are you calling me, anyway?"

"I'm calling to apologize," she uttered before letting out a sigh.

"You're apologizing to me?" He was stunned.

"Yeah. I'm sorry, Zane. I promised to be your partner, yet I didn't finish the dance with you. I even..." Her voice faded off. I even forgot about you by the end of the dance. I wouldn't have thought of you at all if your name hadn't popped up in my mind for a brief moment, Sonia thought.

He chuckled. "I see. It's fine. We danced for quite a while, anyway."

"I still feel a little guilty," she mumbled in a weak tone. Upon hearing her words, Zane's eyes lit up for a moment. "If you truly feel sorry toward me, then why don't you buy me a meal tomorrow? I have some stuff that I need to tell you, anyway."

"What is it?" She was curious.

"You'll find out tomorrow," he replied in a mysterious tone. Sonia couldn't say much—she knew that he was being secretive on purpose. "Fine," she said with a shrug. "What time shall we meet tomorrow?"

"Let's meet in the afternoon. I'll pick you up from your office," Zane replied as he glanced at the digital clock in his car.

"Okay." Sonia nodded.

"Alright. You should head home to get some rest. I'll end the call now; I need to drive," he said in a warm and gentle voice. She smiled upon hearing his words. "Okay. Goodbye." After ending the call, Sonia let out a sigh of relief. That's great. At least this matter isn't weighing down on me anymore. I really hate feeling indebted to other people. That's why I made this call—I wanted to buy Zane lunch because I don't want to feel like I owe him anything. I may have cleared my debts with Zane, but Toby...

Sonia felt overwhelmed whenever she thought about all that Toby had done for her. She returned to her seat and lifted her glass of juice as she shifted her gaze to the man on stage. Although Toby's left arm was hanging from a sling, his aura was as strong as ever. Wherever he went, he naturally turned into the brightest source of light in the entire room.

When Toby sensed someone observing him, he paused for a moment before he turned to look at Sonia. Sonia hadn't expected him to look over, and they immediately locked eyes. She froze when Toby raised his glass in her direction. What's he doing ? Is he raising his glass at his ex-wife in front of such a huge audience ? Isn't he afraid that someone might start a rumor ? We might make it onto the headlines tomorrow !

Instead of responding to his actions, she lowered her gaze and stood up before walking to the washroom. She had only taken a few steps when she heard one of the guests questioning Toby. "President Fuller, there was a huge fuss on the Internet about you canceling your engagement with the McRae Family. Although we're all aware that your relationship with that woman wasn't genuine, we're still interested to know about your love life. Do you have any plans for dating ?"

Sonia's footsteps came to an immediate halt. The guest's question had clearly captured her attention, but she stopped herself from turning around to look at the stage. Instead, she stood still with her back still turned against the rest of the crowd. What is this guest trying to do? Why would he ask such a question? Also, how is Toby going to answer this? Sonia straightened her posture as she bit her bottom lip in anticipation.

From the corner of his eyes, Toby stole a look at Sonia as he spoke into the mic. "I'm not currently seeing anyone. However, I do have someone in mind. Although she isn't with me now, I'll keep waiting until she comes back. Once she's back, we'll get married instantly," he replied. His gaze was filled with sincerity as he spoke.

Sonia could tell that he was looking in her direction, and she could tell that he was talking about her. Her heart began racing as the same guest continued to question Toby. "Excuse me for being a busybody, but can I know who you're talking about, President Fuller?" the guest asked in a rather surprised tone.

Many of the people who showed up at the party were interested in hearing if Toby had any plans to date again because they all had their eyes on him and his impressive background. The Fuller Family was one of the top families in Seafield, and their company was widely recognized across the globe. All of the guests wished to build connections with the Fullers to boost their own businesses.

Among all the possible connections one could develop with another family, the firmest and most reliable connection was a marriage—that explained why the guest was curious about Toby's love life. If Toby was interested in getting into a relationship, all of the guests there were prepared to send their daughters over. They would convince their daughter to use all possible means to capture Toby's heart.

"No," Toby uttered flatly. He narrowed his eyes as he realized the guest's underlying motives for asking the question. The guest's heart

sank before he let out a hearty laugh. "You sure are secretive about the girl you fancy, President Fuller."

Toby no longer responded to the guest after that and simply handed the mic to Tom before he got off the stage. Once Sonia realized that the conversation was over, she took a deep breath before she continued making her way to the washroom.

When she was done, she walked out to find Toby standing outside the washroom. "You..." she mumbled.

"I was waiting for you," he replied.

"You were waiting for me?" She was shocked.

"Yeah," he said with a nod.

"Do you need anything from me?" she asked. She felt rather afraid to look him in the eye after hearing what he said on stage earlier. However, Toby didn't answer her question, but walked over to her and held her hand before he started to walk.

"Where are you taking me, Toby ?" Sonia was taken aback by his actions, but she didn't try to escape his grip. She was worried that she would injure his arm if she tried to pull away from him. That's the only reason I'm following him. If I shake his hand off, he might stumble and knock into a wall or something... That was what Sonia told herself.

Toby continued to lead the way without answering Sonia's question. They walked down a long corridor before they finally ended up in the garden. It was starting to get dark in the garden, but it was a quiet spot that was suitable for conversations. Finally, Toby let go of Sonia's hand before he turned to face her. "You heard everything I said, right?" "What did you say?" Sonia was still rather dazed.

He glared at her. "I replied to that person's question on stage earlier."

Sonia's pupils shrank as she kept quiet. Then, Toby placed his hand on her shoulder. "You know that I was talking about you, right?" His feelings for her had always been out in the open—he had made things clear from the start.

Sonia was well-aware of how he felt toward her. "Why does that matter ?" All of a sudden, Sonia looked up and glared at Toby with a sour expression on her face. Fire danced in her eyes as she spoke. "What do you mean by all of this, Toby ? What are you trying to do ? Do you enjoy making a fool out of me ?" She threw him a few questions all at once.

Toby widened his eyes when he heard her words. "I'm not making a fool out of you. What makes you think I'm fooling around ?"a

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Chapter 515 We're Not Suited for Each Other

"What makes me think so ?" Sonia laughed out of annoyance. "How dare you ask me that question? You were the one who told me you're letting go, and you were the one who told me to stay out of your sight. Yet, you said all those words in front of the crowd earlier. You're contradicting yourself! Aren't you making a fool out of me? What have I ever done to you, Toby? Why do you have to treat me like this?" She clenched her fist and pounded her chest while howling at him. His lips trembled as he spoke, and his voice sounded guiltier and meeker than before. "I'm sorry. It's true that I said those words, but I swear I have a reason."

"Oh? A reason?" Sonia took a sharp inhale to calm herself down. "Okay. Tell me the reason, then."

Toby lowered his gaze as he didn't know how to respond to her. If he directly told her that he said all of those words because his heart was failing after he attempted to save her... He knew that someone like Sonia would be crushed by the guilt she felt. She might even rush off to the hospital to check if she was a good match as a donor... How could he tell her the truth?

A hint of disappointment flashed in Sonia's gaze when she saw that Toby wasn't willing to explain himself. "You're always like that," she uttered with a scoff. "You get me curious, and then you decide not to tell me the truth. You're disgusting, Toby!"

Disgusting ? Toby's face turned pale as he clenched his fists and glared at her. He was trembling slightly. "Did you just call me disgusting ?"

Sonia's eyes glinted. She regretted her words the moment they slipped out of her mouth, and she immediately realized that she had been a little too harsh to him. Ultimately, she shouldn't have said such a thing to him after all that he had done for her. However, she couldn't contain the anger in her chest—she was furious that he had hidden everything from her.

After massaging her brows, she turned to look at him apologetically. "I'm sorry I went overboard with my words. However, I'm genuinely disappointed by you. I don't know what your reason is, but if you've decided to let go of me, then you should just stick to your resolution. You shouldn't go against your words. What you're doing now makes me feel like I'm a toy—you throw me aside when you're in a bad mood, and you pick me up when you're happy."

She shifted her gaze to look at him. "Did you know, Toby? From letting go of me to regretting your decision and coming back to me, you've always made these decisions on your own. You've never cared about my feelings. I dare say that you've never respected me!" After finishing her words, she turned to leave.

However, Toby parted his long legs and reached his right arm out to stop her. He wrapped an arm around her waist and hugged her from the back. Sonia froze. "You…"

"I promise I'm not playing with your feelings." Toby lowered his head and buried his face into her neck. "I've never treated you as a toy. I had been too rash when I decided to let go of you, and it's my fault for going against my words now. I admit that I've done all of these without considering your feelings, but I can promise you that I'm doing all of this for your own good."

Sonia scoffed in anger. "For my own good, huh? You don't need to tell me such things. I'm not touched at all—I just feel like you're emotionally blackmailing me. There are tons of people who will claim that they're doing things for your own good, but they end up doing things that hurt you. When you say that you're doing it for my good, do you really think it has been good for me? Do you think that's what I want?"

"..." Toby's pupils shrank as he fell silent for a moment. It was true that he had never considered this aspect. All along, he believed that he was being thoughtful by shouldering all the burden and ensuring that she lived a stress-free life. However, he had never wondered if that was what she wanted. Sonia lifted her chin to look at the clear dark sky that was free of stars and the moon. "You were right to let go of me, Toby. We have never been a good match. Our educational background, values, and personalities... We have nothing in common." With that said, Sonia looked down and removed Toby's arm from her waist before she walked off without turning back.

Toby didn't go after her. He merely stood in his spot as he watched her disappear down the corridor. His lips were pressed into a thin line. Did she say we have nothing in common? That's impossible. We wouldn't have been pen-pals for so many years if we didn't have things in common.

"I think Sonia's right." Suddenly, a pleasant and clear voice came from behind Toby, followed by the sound of a lighter's click. Toby frowned as he turned to look at the woman behind him. She had just started smoking a cigarette. "Do you think we aren't a good match, Emily ?"

"No, that's not what I meant." Emily swayed her forefinger as she walked over. "I was referring to what she said earlier. She said that you didn't respect her and that you made decisions on your own without asking for her opinion. I agree with that." Emily flicked the ash off her cigarette as she spat a mouthful of smoke in Toby's face.

Toby turned his head away and waved to disperse the smoke. "I'll pack your stuff up and send you back to Fredburg if you exhale smoke in my direction again," he grumbled.

In an instant, Emily's haughty aura was replaced by a meek and spineless one. "Please don't take this to heart, Toby. I was wrong. I won't do that again," she uttered in an attempt to please him. He merely scoffed without responding to her. Emily knew that he wasn't actually angry, but she threw the rest of her cigarette onto the ground before putting it out with her heels. She returned to her usual strong, independent persona once more. "You're my cousin, and I know you well. You grew up in a well-respected family, and you hold a high status in society. That naturally turns you into someone who doesn't consider the opinions of others when you encounter an issue—you'd often feel like you can solve it on your own."

"What's wrong with that?" Toby pressed his lips together. He couldn't understand what he had done wrong or why Sonia had such a huge reaction earlier. She even thought I was emotionally blackmailing her.

"You're not doing anything wrong," Emily said as she looked at him. "But that only applies to your subordinates. It's true that you can neglect your staff members' feelings as a boss, and you can make your own decisions during such times, but Sonia isn't your subordinate. She's your lover and someone who's on the same level as you are. You can't make decisions for her, and you can't always come to your own conclusions. You need to know if she wants the same thing that you do. If she doesn't want something, then all that you're doing is hurting and disrespecting her. You should give this some thought." Emily patted his shoulder before she pulled another cigarette out, then walked off with the cigarette between her lips.

After hearing her words, Toby lowered his gaze thoughtfully. I think I get what she's saying. She's telling me that I should consider Sonia's point of view before I try doing something for Sonia. It's true—all the times I've done things for Sonia or kept secrets from her, I've never once thought about how she might feel. That explains why she's so furious. It seems like I made a mistake this time.

Toby let out a long sigh before he walked in the direction Sonia had left earlier. He believed he owed her an apology. However, when he returned to the hall, he realized that Sonia was nowhere to be seen. Where is she? he wondered as he frowned.

"President Fuller." Tom walked over to him.

Toby glanced up to see his assistant. "Great timing. Have you seen Sonia?"

Tom nodded. "Yeah. Charles just arrived, and the both of them went to the balcony." Tom pointed at a spot behind Toby, and Toby turned to see Charles and Sonia standing on the balcony behind him.

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Chapter 516 Charles' Selfishness

Both man and woman were standing in front of the railing, and they had their backs turned against Toby. Toby couldn't see their faces, so he couldn't tell what they were talking about. However, when he realized that both of them had kept a distance of more than ten inches between each other, his expression softened a little.

"When did Charles arrive ?" Toby asked coldly.

Tom took a glance at his wristwatch before answering. "About ten minutes ago."

Toby nodded. "Why are you looking for me?"

"Old Mrs. Fuller wants you to go over," Tom explained.

"I'll go to her now. I want you to stay here and keep an eye on them. If Charles gets any closer to Sonia, I want you to separate them from each other," Toby ordered.

The corner of Tom's lips twitched when he heard Toby's words. Can you stop acting like a kid, President Fuller? Of course, Tom didn't reveal his true opinions and merely pushed his glasses up his nose as he agreed to Toby's request. "I got it, President Fuller." Toby took one last glance at Sonia and Charles before he walked off to look for Rose.

Meanwhile, on the balcony, Charles swirled his wine glass as he looked at the dejected woman whose gaze was fixed on the floor. "What is it? Are you in a bad mood?" he asked worriedly. "I told you so much, but you barely responded to what I said."

"Yeah, I'm in a pretty bad mood." Sonia clinked glasses with him before she raised her head to sip her drink. Charles turned around to rest both his arms against the balcony's railing. "What is it?"

Sonia looked at the view from the balcony. "It's nothing. I just think that feelings are the least reliable thing in this world," she uttered.

Charles was about to take a sip of his drink, but his actions came to a halt when he heard what she said. "Are you talking about romantic feelings?"

"Yeah." Sonia nodded. "I told you that Toby wanted to let go of me before this, right? He changed his mind tonight, and he said that he'd wait for me. Don't you think his feelings for me are a total joke, Charles?" He gives up on me when he wants to, and he changes his mind when he wants to. What do I mean to him?

The smile on Charles' face turned stiff as he tightened his grip on his glass. "It does sound like a joke. What about you? What do you think about all of this?"

"Me ?"

"Yeah. Did you agree to date him or something?"

Sonia took another sip of her drink. "Why would I agree to anything? I don't love him. I'm just angry because I feel like he's playing with my feelings."

"That's great." Charles heaved a sigh of relief. She hasn't realized that she's in love with Toby yet. I'm afraid she will eventually realize this about herself. When that happens, I'll lose my chance again.

"That's great?!" Sonia turned to face Charles as she glared at him puzzledly. "Did you say that it's great for him to play with my feelings?"

Charles hastily shook his head and waved his hand frantically. "No, no! That's not what I meant. I mean, it's great that you didn't agree to date him," Charles explained.

"Really?" Sonia gave him a side-eye.

"Yeah. I swear." Charles held up three fingers.

"Fine. I'll trust you for now. But I still think there's a hidden meaning in your words earlier," she uttered with a pout.

"How could that be possible ?" Charles looked away sheepishly. "What else could my words mean ? I genuinely think it's great that you didn't agree to date him. You should stop overthinking it, darling." He gulped a huge mouthful of red wine after that.

Sonia figured that she was being a little too sensitive, so she shifted her gaze and looked at her own wine glass. She remained silent for a few seconds before she parted her red lips to speak. "Charles, Toby

mentioned that he had a reason for letting go of me previously. What do you think the reason was?"

Charles placed his empty glass at the side. "How should I know? Perhaps he didn't even mean what he said."

"You think he was just giving me an excuse?" Sonia looked at Charles.

Charles nodded. "Yeah. He decided to let you go previously but he's going against his own words now, so he definitely needs a seemingly valid reason to explain his previous actions. Maybe he just came up with an excuse because he couldn't find any better reason at that moment."

"Is that so?" Sonia mumbled. Charles looked at her earnestly. "Of course. I'm a man—I understand the way other men think. Trust me, darling." He reached over to pat Sonia on the shoulder.

Tom, who had been watching from afar, widened his eyes when he realized that the time had come for him to do his job. He let out an exasperated sigh before he straightened his tie and walked toward the balcony. "Mr. Lane," Tom uttered as he walked over to the two people at the balcony.

The look on Charles' face darkened when he saw Tom. "What are you doing here? Did Toby send you here?"

"No. It was Mrs. Lane who told me to get you." Tom fixed his glasses as he responded in a calm tone. Charles froze upon hearing this. "My mom?"

"Yeah." Tom nodded.

"Why is my mom asking for me? And why did she tell you to come get me?" Charles frowned. "I'm not sure about that. Why don't you go over to ask her yourself, Mr. Lane?" Tom's gaze landed on Charles' arm on Sonia's shoulder. "You should hurry over, Mr. Lane. I think it's a pretty urgent matter," Tom added.

"You should go ahead, Charles. Perhaps there's some sort of emergency," Sonia urged.

Charles nodded. "Alright. I'll go over to take a look, then. You-"

Sonia glanced at her watch before interrupting him. "It's getting late, so I should be heading back soon. I'll go give Grandma my wishes."

"Alright. I'm afraid I won't be able to send you off. I'm not leaving anytime soon because my dad wants to introduce me to a few people later." Charles rubbed his eyebrows as he spoke in a frustrated tone.

Sonia beamed. "It's good for you to meet new people. Well, you should go now."

"Goodbye, then." Charles lifted his hand to stroke Sonia's hair. However, Tom immediately spoke up when he realized what Charles was trying to do. "Let's hurry, Mr. Lane."

"I don't need you to remind me, you busybody." Charles shot Tom a fierce glare. After that, he lowered his hand, which had just been inches away from Sonia's head. He stuck his hands into his pocket before walking back into the hall.

As Tom watched Charles leave, he let out a soft sigh. President Fuller told me to keep an eye on Miss Reed and Charles—it's my duty to keep them apart once Charles tries to make a move on Sonia. I guess my job here is done.

"Tom." Sonia didn't know what Tom was thinking about, and she walked over to interrupt his thoughts. "Where's Grandma?"

"I can bring you to Old Mrs. Fuller if you'd like to see her, Miss Reed," Tom offered.

"I hope that won't be too much of a hassle." Sonia nodded.

"It's fine. Let's go." Tom gestured for Sonia to follow behind him, and they walked in the opposite direction of where Charles had gone.

At the same time, Rose was at the outdoor pavilion having tea with Toby. She took a glance at her precious grandson before she spoke. "Did you notice how Sonia seemed really worried about you when you saved her after Jean nearly knocked her down?"

Toby lowered his teacup and knitted his brows upon hearing his grandmother. "Yeah, I noticed."

"I think Sonia has caught feelings for you once more." Rose rubbed the dragon head of her walking stick as she continued. "I've always assumed that Sonia would never have feelings for you again after she got over you. I'm surprised that my assumptions were proven wrong. However, I'm really curious about how she started falling for you again. Did something happen recently ? Is there something that I'm not aware of ? When I saw Sonia last month, she was still filled with hatred for you, yet she seems to be attracted to you now. I'm sure something must have happened in between this period."

"You sure are observant, Grandma." Toby lifted the teapot to refill Rose's cup. "There were some things that happened between us this month. However, I have no plans of telling you about the incident—I'd just like to keep it a secret forever. All you need to know is that Sonia has developed feelings for me once more."

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Chapter 517 Tina's Suicide

"You're being so mysterious." Rose took a sip of her tea before she continued speaking. "Well, I won't probe any further if that's the case. However, there's something else I'd like to know. Sonia isn't aware of the fact that she has fallen for you, and I wanted to point it out earlier, but you stopped me before I could do it. Why did you do that?"

"Because now isn't the right time." Toby leaned against his seat. "Sonia hasn't realized her feelings for me, so she might not accept it if we were to point it out to her now. I'm afraid she might feel disgusted and resistant toward such a statement. My plan is for her to realize it on her own so that she can naturally accept the fact that she has fallen for me."

There was no point in getting others to tell Sonia about her feelings—she wouldn't accept it, and she might avoid or hide from Toby if that happened. The best solution was for Sonia to think things through, as this would make it more likely for her to accept Toby.

Rose gave him a thoughtful nod. "You're right. Well, since you've already decided on this, you should just go along with your plan. However, I really hope that you can get married to Sonia soon. You don't have to worry about Jean; I'll keep an eye on her to make sure she doesn't pull any tricks." Rose's face darkened at the mention of Jean.

If it weren't for the fact that Jean had taken care of Toby and was Tyler's biological mother, Rose would have kicked her out of the house a long

time ago. Jean didn't know how to do anything except give the family more issues.

"I got it, Grandma. I hope it's not too much trouble for you to deal with Mom." Toby stood up to give Rose a bow. Rose hastily gestured for him to sit, and she was about to tell him something when she saw Tom walking over with Sonia. "Sonia's here." Rose let out a large grin. Toby immediately turned to see Sonia walking toward them.

Sonia hadn't expected to bump into Toby there, and a look of suspicion flashed across her face before she looked away and pretended not to see him. "Grandma!" Sonia greeted with a smile.

"Take a seat, Sonia." Rose patted on the spot beside her.

Sonia shook her head. "It's fine, Grandma. I came to bid you goodbye. It's getting late, so I'd like to head home now."

"I see. That's fine." Rose knew that it was getting late, and she didn't stop Sonia as she knew that Sonia had work the next day. Instead, Rose used her walking stick to support her to her feet. "You had a few drinks earlier, so you can't go home on your own. I'll get Toby to send you home."

Does she want Toby to send me home? Sonia immediately rejected the offer. "It's fine, Grandma. I'll just call for a personal driver to take my car. He drank alcohol too, so he can't drive me back."

Toby's face was grim as he spoke. "Tom didn't drink. He can send us back."

"Us?" Sonia froze.

Toby lowered his cup as he got to his feet. "I should be leaving too, Grandma. I'll get Tom to drive us back now so that he can get off work earlier after that."

"Great. You guys should leave together, then." Rose rolled her eyes at Toby when Sonia wasn't looking. It's so obvious that he wants to leave together with Sonia. Well, I guess that's good—that's what I intended to do when I told him to send Sonia home.

"Look, I don't need to follow you guys. I can—" Sonia was about to say something when Rose patted the back of her hand. "Alright, Sonia, go along now. I'd feel more at ease knowing that Toby's the one sending you. I'd be more worried if you just hired a stranger as your personal driver."

Rose turned to Toby just to pretend to give him a stern warning. "You'd better make sure that you send her home safely. You'll be the first person I look for if something happens to Sonia."

"Okay." Toby nodded.

Sonia let out a bitter laugh. Fine. Grandma already has everything planned out for me, so I can't do much, can I? If I reject her now, it'd seem like I'm being disrespectful. Forget it. Let's just do it. "We'll leave now, Grandma." Sonia tidied her hair before she bid goodbye to Rose.

When Toby heard Sonia referring to them as 'we', he curled his lips into a slight smirk. Rose merely chuckled as she waved. "Okay, okay. Goodbye."

Sonia nodded before she followed Toby out of the pavilion. They had only taken a few steps when she heard Rose talking in a playful tone behind her. "Look at Sonia and Toby, Mary. They look like a perfect couple."

"They do." Mary nodded agreeably. Upon hearing that, Sonia tripped on something and nearly fell. Toby instantly held onto her waist. "Watch out," he uttered in a gentle tone.

"I got it. Thanks." She straightened her back and was about to slip out of Toby's grip. However, Toby then let go of her waist before he reached over to hold her hand. Sonia widened her eyes. "You..."

"I'm holding your hand because the path here is covered with large pebbles. The intention was to replicate the theme of an ancient garden but walking around this area with heels can get pretty hard. You'd fall really easily," Toby said.

Sonia parted her red lips to speak, but no words came out of her mouth. She had no rebuttals—it was true that the ground made it hard for her to walk. She had already stumbled her way over when she arrived at the pavilion with Tom. If Tom hadn't helped her over, she would have certainly fallen onto the ground.

I guess there's nothing wrong with Toby holding my hand. I just don't want to fall down, that's all, Sonia thought to herself as she lowered her head. Toby knew that she had agreed to let him hold her hand when he sensed that her grip was no longer as tense as before. He smiled before tightening his grip and shoving both their hands into his coat pocket.

"You—" Sonia stared at him, her eyes filled with surprise.

"My hand's freezing. I need to warm it up a little," Toby uttered with a poker face.

Sonia's lips twitched with annoyance. Did he say his hand is cold? What a lie! I can still feel the warmth from his palm. If anything, I'm the one who's cold now. Wait! Sonia widened her eyes. Did he do this because he wanted to warm my hand? Sonia stared at Toby as she zoned out for a while.

"What is it?" Toby asked gently.

"I-It's nothing," Sonia mumbled as she looked at her feet. Toby didn't force her to answer him when he saw her response. Instead, he gave her hand a soft squeeze before he shifted his gaze away from her.

Soon enough, the three of them exited the manor's main gates and arrived at their car. At that moment, Sonia's phone began to ring. She used one hand to unzip her bag and pulled her phone out. "Huh?" Sonia mumbled in a puzzled tone.

"What is it?" Toby asked. She showed him her phone. "How odd. It's 11.00PM, yet the police are calling me."

"The police ?" Toby frowned. "Did you make a police report recently ?"

"No." Sonia shook her head. "That's why I'm so surprised by this call." This number was the number she had saved from her previous encounters at the police station. That was why the caller ID indicated that it was from the police station.

"You should just pick it up to find out what's the matter," Toby suggested. Sonia nodded as she swiped a finger across the screen to pick up the call. "Hello?" she uttered as she placed the phone against her ear.

"Something has happened, Miss Reed." A stern, male voice sounded from the other end of the line. Sonia's expression turned serious when she sensed the man's grave tone. "What is it, Officer Olsen ?"

"Tina jumped off a building and killed herself," Teddy replied grimly. A loud ringing sounded in Sonia's ears as her expression turned into one of disbelief. "What did you just say? Tina... jumped off a building? She's dead?"

Toby and Tom were just as shocked upon hearing Sonia's words. "Tina killed herself?! How is that possible?" Tom was shocked.

"Put him on speaker!" Toby ordered. Sonia gulped and did as she was told. Teddy could hear all three of their voices then. "That's right. About ten minutes ago, she jumped out of one of the windows in her ward. She died on the spot."

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Chapter 518 Toby the Fashion Critic

As the plaintiff in Tina's case, Sonia had the right to know everything that was happening to Tina. That was why the police immediately called to let her know about it after they found out Tina killed herself. "Tina is dead?" Sonia mumbled in disbelief.

Tom's jaw dropped. "What? She killed herself? That's just..."

Toby took Sonia's phone. "Why did she kill herself?"

Teddy recognized Toby's voice, and he answered, "We're still looking into it. It happened very suddenly, so nobody knows why. The only guess we have now is that she's trying to avoid prison. Tomorrow's her last day of house arrest, so that's probably why. However..." "This guess is probably wrong," Toby finished his sentence.

Teddy nodded. "Yes. If she's really trying to avoid prison, she wouldn't have waited until now to kill herself. She would have done it as soon as she was placed under house arrest. But that's what we can work with now. We're still looking into this."

"I see. We'll be right there." Toby hung up and handed the phone back to Sonia.

Sonia took the phone dumbly. "Tina killed herself?" Apparently, she was still in shock.

Toby patted her head. "Yes."

Her lips trembled, but she said nothing. Her mind was raging and impossible to calm, for she could not believe Tina had died just like that. Sonia bit her lip.

Toby said nothing. To be honest, he never thought Tina would commit suicide. It caught everyone by surprise, and he had a feeling the suicide wasn't as simple as it looked. First, the timing wasn't right, and the reason was too outlandish. Couple that together, and that would be a recipe for a mystery. But I'll have to take a look for myself to find out.

"Let's go. This is no laughing matter. You're the plaintiff, so you must know what's going on as well." Toby tipped her chin up gently.

Sonia looked at him. "Okay."

Toby retracted his hand. "Drive," he told Tom.

Tom nodded. "Yes, sir!"

They got into the car and went to First World Hospital. Nobody said anything on the way, and the atmosphere was depressingly somber. Tina's suicide was too shocking for them, making it impossible for them to calm down.

Tom drove fast, so they reached the hospital in less than half an hour.

Before they got out of the car, Sonia realized that there were a few police cars outside the hospital. The police officers stood in a line and cordoned off the area, prohibiting all but the patients requiring immediate treatment from entering.

More than half of the people outside the cordoned-off area were reporters from Flashbang Media. They raised their mics and cameras as they tried to breach the area. They tried to push the police officers away so they could get exclusive news.

Sonia squinted. So the news has spread. It's probably going viral on the Internet as we speak. Just then, she felt something covering her head, and she touched it. "A hat?"

"Yes. It'll cover you up a little. If those reporters see you later, they're going to surround you and bombard you with questions." Toby covered her up with a jacket.

It wasn't the one he was wearing. The jacket was already in the car all this time just in case he needed a spare, and now it was put to good use.

Sonia looked at the jacket and fidgeted. "I'm fine with the hat, but not the jacket."

"Just wear it," Toby interrupted imperiously. He pressed the jacket down on her tightly so she wouldn't shake it off. "It's freezing out there. You can't just walk around in a dress."

"Oh." Sonia finally realized something important—it was nearly zero degrees out there. Earlier, she didn't feel cold just wearing a dress because there were heaters installed in the car and the old manor. Naturally, she had forgotten that it was winter. If she actually went out in her dress, she'd freeze to death. "You can let go. I'll wear it," she muttered awkwardly.

Toby laid his hands off her happily.

She stuck her arms into the sleeves and wore the jacket. It was oversized and reached the top of her knees. Coupled with the long sleeves, it made her look like a child who was wearing her parents' clothes. She looked at herself and felt amused by the sight. "I think I can act in an opera now."

"It is a little big." Toby rubbed his chin while looking at her. After all, it was his jacket, so it was normal that it would look big on her. "Stay put. I'll handle this." He took off his necktie with one hand.

Sonia was curious about that. "What are you trying to do?"

Toby didn't answer. Instead, he wrapped the tie around her waist and pulled it tight. Then, he tied it into a bow and shifted it to the side. The necktie turned into her belt, and it cinched her waist.

It looked fashionable for some reason. His was a blue-striped necklace, while her dress and jacket were black. It was as if a blue moon had suddenly appeared in the night sky, dazzling everyone. "Done." He finished adjusting the necktie and pulled his hands away. Sonia looked at his handiwork. "Not bad. Never thought you knew how to do this."

Toby chuckled. "I'll take that as a compliment. We can go out now."

He popped a cap over his head as well. Tom had bought those caps in a nearby shop when they stopped earlier.

Toby opened the door and got out first, then he extended his hand to Sonia.

Sonia put her hand in his without any hesitation, and he held her hand tight. Toby took her out of the car, then they went to the cordon point.

They came up to one of the officers, and Sonia quietly identified herself.

The officer had been told by his captain about their arrival, so after he verified her identity, he lifted the tape up and allowed the three of them to go in.

It wasn't until the trio had gone in did the reporters realize who they were. However, they were too late, for Sonia, Toby, and Tom had gone into the cordoned-off area.

Since they didn't dare to breach the area, the reporters took deep breaths and shouted out their questions as Sonia and the others went in. They wanted to know Sonia's opinion about Tina's suicide, but Sonia and Toby pretended they heard nothing. They kept walking, and eventually, they got out of the reporters' sights.

When they came to the ward area, Sonia noticed that one of the buildings was crowded with police officers and the medical staff. Aside from that, there wasn't a single civilian. They were probably evacuated. "They're just up ahead," Toby said softly.

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Chapter 519 Sonia Faints

Sonia hummed.

"Let's go." Toby said.

Sonia shivered. She didn't want to go, for somebody died there. She had only seen dead people on TV, but not in real life. She had never needed to visit a crime scene either, so she was afraid.

Toby noticed her fear, and he held her hand tightly. "It's alright. I'm here."

Sonia turned her head. His calm, serious gaze alleviated some of her fear at once.

"Let's go." Noticing her change in mood, Toby took her and walked forward.

Sonia let him take her away, and she stared at him. Her eyes glinted as her mind raced.

"You're here." Teddy was still taking notes outside the area. When he saw the trio coming over, he closed his notebook and went up to them.

Toby nodded. "How's the situation, Mr. Olsen?" He looked ahead of him, where the building was surrounded by the officers and the medical staff. He couldn't see anything at all, so he could only ask Teddy.

Teddy pushed his hat down. "The corpse is still there. The forensic doctor is not here yet, so we asked the hospital's doctor to inspect the body first. However, they aren't trained like forensic doctors. It's taking them a long time, and they haven't found anything."

"Why didn't you guys ask Tim?" Toby frowned. That guy loves to research the human body. I heard he worked part-time as a forensic doctor overseas, since that's the only branch of science that can experiment on the human body anytime they want.

"We did." Teddy sighed. "Some doctors suggested it, but he's still operating on a patient, so it'll take him a while before he can come."

"No. He is already here." Sonia pointed at a person some distance away from them.

Toby and Teddy looked at where she was pointing, and they saw Tim coming over in a hurry, still in his surgery attire.

Teddy was delighted to see him. "Great! He's finally here. Once the autopsy is done, we should know what's the cause of her death. I'll be going over to him, Mr. Fuller, Miss Sonia."

"Okay." Toby nodded.

Teddy went up to Tim.

Tim saw Teddy too, as well as Toby and Sonia, who were behind Teddy. Tim ignored Toby and nodded at Sonia. It was his way of saying hi.

Sonia said hi, then Teddy started talking to Tim.

After some time, Teddy told the crowd surrounding the corpse to make way for Tim. Once they did, Tina's corpse became plain for Sonia to see. Sonia was afraid of corpses to begin with, and seeing Tina's mangled corpse made her turn as white as a sheet. She screamed.

It was a horrifying sight. Tina was lying on the ground face down, and the patch of grass was drenched with blood. Her face was nothing but a mess of flesh and blood, making her barely recognizable. Even her head was caved in, and white liquid oozed out from it. Sonia retched at the sight of that, then she closed her eyes and blacked out.

"Sonia!" As Sonia fell toward him, Toby tensed up and quickly held her in his arms. He slowly hunkered down and let her rest in his arms as he shook her gently. "Wake up, Sonia."

Tim noticed Sonia fainting as well. He had already put on gloves and was ready to inspect the corpse, but after he saw what happened, he took his gloves off and went over to her. "What happened to her?" he asked.

Toby looked at her, his eyes filled with guilt. "She fainted from the shock." He knew Teddy would tell everyone to make way, and he was prepared to close her eyes, but Sonia had been faster than him. She saw how mangled the body was before he could close her eyes, and that made her faint. It's my fault.

Tim said nothing. He pulled Sonia's eyelid open and massaged parts of her head.

A while later, she furrowed her eyebrows, and her eyelashes started trembling. She seemed to be regaining consciousness, and a moment later, she opened her eyes, but there was only fear in it. "To—"

"It's okay." Toby leaned down and put his forehead against hers. "It's alright. Calm down."

"Toby ?" Sonia blinked at him.

"Yes," Toby said. "It's me. Don't be scared."

"But I saw—"

"I know. Keep it out of your mind. Just don't think about it, and you won't be scared." He pulled away and looked at her gently.

Sonia huffed. "Impossible. How can I not think about it? It's gruesome. I can still see it in my mind. I—"

Before she could finish, Toby leaned down and shut her up with a kiss. Sonia's eyes widened in disbelief, and the crowd was surprised by what Toby was doing.

Especially Teddy. The corner of his lips twitched as he thought, What the heck? This is a crime scene. It's bloody and nasty, but you guys are actually kissing? Here? Holy sh*t. He turned around huffily. Ugh, I'm leaving. I can't stand this.

Tom covered his face and turned around in embarrassment as well.

Tim arched his eyebrow at them, and he stood up. "Okay then. I was going to say I can erase her memories if she can't forget about it, but I don't think she needs it. Apparently, someone managed to be more effective than I am." He adjusted his glasses and smiled. Then, he turned around to go back to the body.

A long, long time later, Toby's lips finally left Sonia's. She was already suffocating, and she breathed deeply. "You..." She blushed.

He let her go so she could stand up. After she did, he stood up and wiped the lipstick off his lips. "Now you won't be afraid anymore, right?"

Well, obviously. Sonia said nothing. All she could think about was how he had kissed her, so she couldn't even remember how Tina's corpse looked. Of course she wouldn't be afraid. The idea worked well, although it was embarrassing for her. She stared at the ground. "Thank you," Sonia thanked him, but her voice was barely a whisper.

Toby heard it, however, so he grunted. "You should take a seat." He pointed at the bench beside them. "I'll go over and take a look."

Sonia nodded. "Okay." She needed time to calm herself, and she didn't want to see Tina's mangled corpse. It took her a lot to forget about the horror she saw, and she did not want to relive it.

"Stay with her, Tom." Toby handed her over to Tom.

"Yes, sir," Tom said.

"I'll be going over now. Call me if anything happens." He patted her head and went toward Tim.

She looked at him and touched where he patted her. For the first time, she didn't hate it. Even when he kissed her just now, she didn't feel repulsed either. What is going on?

"We should be going now, Miss Reed," Tom told her before she could figure her feelings out.

Sonia held back her questions for the time being and forced a smile. "Okay."

Toby came to Tim's side. "What did you find ?"

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Tim was squatting beside the body, and he answered without looking up, "She jumped from a great height and landed headfirst. Her skull broke, and she died on the spot. And also..." He held her hand and pinched it from her fingertips to her shoulder. The bone doesn't feel right. Tim had a weird look on his face, and he quickly tossed it away and held the other arm up, pinching up from her fingertips to her shoulders as well. When he was done, he squinted, his eyes gleaming darkly.

"What's wrong?" Toby asked, curious about what Tim just did.

Tim stood up, but he didn't answer Toby. Instead, he looked at Teddy. "Take the body to the morgue. I'll have to perform an autopsy."

"I'll have to ask my boss about that though." Teddy frowned.

Tim took his gloves off. "Then make it quick. This is important to the case."

Teddy looked at him, then at the body on the ground. In the end, he went aside to call someone.

Toby gazed at Tim. "What did you find? I know something's wrong. The look on your face tells me I'm right."

Tim adjusted his glasses. "Yes. I suspect that this is not Tina's body."

"What did you say?" Toby was shocked, and his face darkened. "It's not Tina?"

Tim grunted. "I'm seventy percent sure. You know I worked part time as a forensic doctor overseas, so I know a lot about human skeletons. When I checked the arm, I realized that it doesn't match Tina's size. Sure, it is almost the same height as Tina, but its bones are bigger, so…" Teddy came back before he could finish. "My boss has approved the autopsy, Dr. Lancaster. We'll be counting on you then."

Tim nodded. "Sure. Just remember to pay me on time."

The corner of Teddy's lips twitched. "Don't worry, we will." He then told the other officers to clean up the place and take the body to the morgue.

Tim looked at Toby. "I have her DNA sample in the hospital, so I'll be extracting the body's DNA and comparing it to hers. If it doesn't match, that means Tina isn't dead and is on the run."

Toby clenched his fists. The air around him was filled with murder, and the look on his face was colder than ice. "I understand. You may leave now. I'll handle the rest."

Tim didn't say anything more. He put his hands into his coat's pockets and left.

Toby stood in the same place and watched as the officers cleaned the place up. He pursed his lips, his eyes filled with a raging storm. He believed Tim's speculation that the body did not belong to Tina. He already knew something was wrong about Tina's suicide while he was on the way here. The timing and her motives didn't add up, and that made him think something bad might have happened. In the end, his worries were not unfounded as Tina wasn't the one who killed herself; the corpse was just a stand in.

Tim said the bones didn't match, and the body's face was weird as well. Toby looked up at the building. He recalled that Tina lived on the tenth floor, so if she did jump down from that height, she would die on the spot, but it wouldn't mangle her face into an unrecognizable mess. But the body's face was just a mess of flesh and bones, making it unrecognizable. He thought something was off when he first saw it, but he hadn't been able to put a finger on it. When Tim said the corpse might not be Tina, only then did he realize that the body's face was off.

He could almost confirm that the body's face had decomposed before it 'jumped.' That was why it was a bloody mess. Nobody could recognize it, or they would know Tina didn't kill herself.

A cold, mirthless smile curled Toby's lips. She managed to slip through maximum security and got herself a stand in. It seems I have underestimated her.

The body was taken away a short while later, leaving a patch of wet blood on the ground. Toby glanced at it for a moment, then he went toward Sonia.

Sonia was drinking the water Tom bought for her. When Toby came over, she quickly screwed it shut and uncapped another bottle to hand it to him. "Here. It should help with the discomfort." He might not be scared of the body, but he must feel uneasy seeing it. He should feel better if he has some water.

Toby looked at the bottle of water, and he stopped frowning. "Thank you." He took it from her.

"No problem." Sonia shook her head and looked at where the corpse was. "Is the inspection done? I saw them taking the body away."

"No. It's just taken to the morgue. Tim found something." Toby sat down beside her.

Sonia nudged to the side and gave him a lot of space. "What is it?"

"That body might not be Tina's." Toby looked at her.

Sonia was shocked.

Tom was petrified as well. "I-It's not Tina?"

Toby nodded. He told them about the conversation he had with Tim, as well as the guesses he came up with.

It took Sonia a long while to organize her thoughts. When she spoke again, she sounded agitated. "Impossible. If it's not Tina, then who is it? She's under house arrest, and the police are keeping an eye on her 24/7. She couldn't even leave the ward, so how did she get someone to kill themselves for her? And how did she escape? That's just absurd."

Tom nodded as well. "Yeah, sir. That sounds implausible."

Toby stared down at the ground. "Nothing's impossible. She can't get out, but someone can get in. As long as they did a switcheroo with her, she could escape without the cops knowing."

"That's just..." Sonia and Tom were flabbergasted.

Yeah. She can't get out, but someone can get in. If the body is confirmed to be someone else's, then Toby's guess would be right. Someone went into her ward, did a switcheroo, and jumped off the building. Tina would escape prison successfully, and people would believe that she killed herself, throwing all suspicion off her.

"We'll have to look into how Tina managed to get someone to kill themselves for her," Toby took a sip of water and continued solemnly.

Sonia said nothing, but she felt goosebumps appearing all over her body.

At this moment, Toby's phone rang. He put the bottle down and took his phone out, but he frowned when he saw who the caller was. "I'll have to take this call." He stood up.

"Okay." Sonia nodded.

Toby went forward, and Tom followed him as well. He noticed that the caller was someone from the company, so Toby might need him to do something.