

Chapter 19: Only Worthy of Being a Substitute

With his stern reminder, Suzy snapped back to reality.

Yes, why would she assume that Liam would favor her loan application just because they had been intimate? She had to remember that he paid for her services, and involving emotions in a monetary transaction was crossing the line.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Park, for bothering you."

Suzy didn't wait for him to respond any further and quickly hung up. The words "overestimating oneself" stung as if she had been slapped four times across the face.

Outside, Desmond had received the notification as well, and he stormed into her office, his temper flaring.

"I told you it wouldn't work, right? Suzy, who do you think you are? You asked me to trust you, and I did. What now?!"

Hearing his reprimand, Wendy hurriedly rushed over, clutching documents and stood in front of Suzy, speaking up on her behalf. "Mr. Shaw, Suzy is having a hard time taking care of her sick mother. Can't you be a bit more understanding?"

"Understanding? Who's going to understand me?!" Desmond slammed his hand on the table. "Fine, Suzy, don't accuse me of targeting you! It was you who requested the Far East

project from me. If the project doesn't kick off, then pack your things and leave!"

Wendy was about to retort, but suddenly, Suzy reached out and held her back, signaling her not to continue. Suzy stood up and bowed deeply.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Shaw. I won't give up on the Far East project."

"You better not be all talk!" Desmond snapped before slamming the door and storming out.

Wendy looked more furious than Desmond, "Suzy, don't be afraid of him! If necessary, we can quit together!"

"I'll be fine." Suzy took a deep breath, regaining her composure. She shifted her gaze to the computer screen. "I must secure the Far East project."

She was determined to reclaim the dignity she had lost today.

"Okay, I'll help you." Wendy was about to say more when suddenly, the intercom on Suzy's desk rang.

Suzy answered, recognizing the somewhat familiar voice on the other end.

"Miss Suzy? Mr. Park requests your presence at the main office."

Suzy was taken aback and wondered if Liam was back from the business trip.

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Suzy walked up to the office building with an expressionless face, her high heels echoing on the floor as she approached the CEO's office. She knew that Liam had no obligation to help her in her work, so she had no right to bring any emotions into this.

Suzy knocked on the door, and to her surprise, a woman's voice came from inside.

"Come in."

She pushed the door open and entered, but Liam was nowhere to be seen. Instead, there was a woman holding a glass of red wine. When Suzy saw her face, she involuntarily froze.

The woman was stunningly beautiful, radiating confidence from within. She wore a designer light purple dress that accentuated her graceful figure, and every move she made exuded the same air of luxury as Liam.

Suzy's astonishment wasn't just because of her beauty but also because of the uncanny resemblance between their faces.

"Who are you?" The woman was also surprised when she saw Suzy.

"I'm Suzy Chase from Team Three with FortuneWave Investment Department. Mr. Park had asked me to come



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over," Suzy replied, averting her gaze and standing in a proper manner.

"Oh." Sophia regained her composure and gestured towards the lounge inside the CEO's office. "Liam is changing clothes. Please wait for a moment."

Suzy nodded, but in the next moment, she heard Liam's cold, iceberg-like voice.

"She's only fit to be a substitute."

Chapter 20: What About Your Wife?

"Substitute..."

Suzy pondered, "Who else could this refer to in this situation? He was definitely referring to me."

It was obvious that he was explaining the matter of obtaining a marriage certificate to his main love interest.

In this situation, Suzy felt like an awkward third wheel, placed right in the middle of a couple deeply in love. Before, she had questioned why Liam had picked her, but now it all became clear. It wasn't a mystery anymore why Liam had mentioned she was the perfect fit.

It made sense since finding someone with a face resembling Sophia's, without any family ties, would have been quite a task. Suzy seemed destined to be Sophia's stand-in.

Suzy didn't know whether to be disgusted by this coincidence or grateful for it. Without this stand-in role, her mother wouldn't have had the money for treatment.

Seeing Suzy's conflicted expression, Sophia knew that she didn't recognize her, and there had likely been a misunderstanding.

But she liked this misunderstanding.

After a brief pause, Sophia placed her highball glass down, gesturing for Suzy to sit first. Then, she walked to the door of the lounge and spoke gently to the person inside, "I'm back now and don't plan to leave in the short term. I'll be here with you."

"That's good."

Suzy couldn't take it anymore; her emotions were overwhelming. She immediately took two steps back and lowered her voice, "It appears Mr. Park is busy at the moment. I'll return to meet him later."

Without waiting for a response, she left.

Sophia watched as the door closed, her lips curving slightly. Her tone returned to normal, "Liam, you can rest assured and dismiss the substitute in the legal department. With me here, no one can tarnish the reputation of Park Group."

Finally, the door to the lounge opened, and Liam walked out calmly, fastening the top button of his shirt with his slender fingers.

"Well, thank you for your hard work."

Sophia wanted to reach out to help him but was instinctively avoided by Liam.

He was always like this, never giving her any opportunity to get close.

Sophia briefly paused before quickly masking it with a smile. "You're still so particular about cleanliness, my old friend. We've known each other for such a long time, and you won't even allow a simple touch. What will you do when you're married?"

Liam didn't respond to her words. He scanned the office door with his dark eyes and then frowned. "Did someone come just now?"

"No," Sophia calmly replied, "Who was supposed to come?"

"Hmm, you don't know her." He sat back in his chair, his long legs crossed. "Go find Clive for me. Let me know where we're meeting another day."

With such a clear dismissal, Sophia had nothing more to say.

"Alright, I won't disturb your work."

After she left, Liam picked up the office phone to call Suzy again, hesitated for a moment, and then sent a text message on his phone.

"Go directly to Easter Bay after work."

Easter Bay was the name of his residence.

It took a while for her to reply. "I'm not going. I'm going to be with my mom tonight, and besides, it's still working hours. Do you have any other matters to discuss, Mr. Park?"

She sent his own words back to him exactly as he had said

them, without any alterations.

Liam couldn't help but chuckle.

In middle school, Suzy had this personality. Despite appearing to be accommodating and easygoing, she was actually sensitive, sharp, and filled with self-doubt.

She was always on guard and kept her defenses up against anyone getting too close.

He knew there must be countless grievances and heartaches behind this demeanor that had led to such a consequence.

"Yes, it's about the Far East project."

"I'll be working an extra two hours, so I should be there around 8 o'clock."

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In the office, Suzy glanced at the text messages on her phone, feeling somewhat puzzled.

Sophia, Liam's main love interest, had returned, so Suzy couldn't understand why Liam had ask her to go to Easter Bay. It didn't seem likely that he wanted her to observe whatever was happening between him and Sophia.

Suzy felt uneasy thinking that Liam might have asked her over to terminate the marriage contract.

It wasn't because she couldn't bear to part with Liam. The

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main reason was her mother's impending surgery, and without Liam's support, she worried the doctors might not be as diligent.

However, now that his original love interest was back in the picture, she couldn't simply take that spot!