

## Chapter 23: Stop Trying to Act Tough

At that moment, Suzy's once defiant consciousness gave way. She instinctively placed her trust in Liam as she lost consciousness in his embrace. She couldn't witness the sharp lines of his face or the icy layer that had replaced his typically impassive eyes.

"Liam..."

Steven was dumbfounded, trembling all over. He never expected to encounter such a prominent figure today.

"You better pray she's okay."

Liam's words were devoid of emotion, but they sent shivers down his spine. Watching him carry the woman away, he was left paralyzed on the seat, unable to stand. Comment by Ashley choi: Author wrote bed, but I don't think there should be a bed in a private booth of the restaurant.

...

Suzy felt like she had a long dream. The scenes flashed before her like a slideshow, starting from the pool of blood when her mother had committed suicide, then to the classroom at school, and finally to Desmond's furious face.

Suddenly, a sharp pain woke her up. She furrowed her brows and slowly opened her eyes. The white ceiling of the

hospital made her feel uneasy, so she instinctively try to reach her hand up to cover her eyes.

However, Suzy realized that someone was holding her hand. She turned her gaze to see Liam wearing a wrinkled shirt, one hand resting on the hospital bed as he slept, while the other held onto her tightly.

The room's lights were on, indicating that it must be the middle of the night. Could it be that he had been at the hospital with her all this time? Otherwise, given his cleanliness, he would have changed his clothes by now.

As she looked at his slightly furrowed brows, Suzy could sense that something within her was changing. It was the feeling of having someone by her side when she was vulnerable, something she had forgotten after all these years.

For over a decade, Suzy had been unwaveringly dedicated to making a living, dealing with minor illnesses on her own ever since her mother's tragic suicide and her subsequent stay in the hospital. Even when it came to her close friend Wendy, she avoided burdening her because she believed she had little to give in return.

Perhaps sensing movement beside him, Liam also woke up from his short nap. He didn't say anything but instinctively reached out to touch her forehead. Once he confirmed her normal body temperature, his previously tense face relaxed slightly.

"Does it still hurt?"

Suzy shook her head, saying, "Thank you, Mr. Park, for your concern. I apologize for causing you trouble."

Upon hearing Suzy's words, Liam's previously eased brows knitted together once again. He disliked how Suzy always addressed him as "Mr. Park."

"The person in charge of Far East has been handed over to the police."

"Oh, I see. That's good," she replied with a respectful yet distant gaze that was somewhat infuriating to Liam.

"How long have you been working at FortuneWave?"

Suddenly, Liam raised his voice, sounding stern and displeased. If Suzy's physical condition had allowed it, she would have almost stood up to respond.

"A year and a half."

"Hasn't anyone told you about Park Group's policy? Female employees are required to have another colleague present when meeting with business partners."

His reprimand was forceful and commanding, but it strangely made Suzy feel cared for.

"I won't do it next time."

"There will be no next time."

Suzy observed his serious and traditional demeanor, and she couldn't help but smile, as it reminded her of the way he had scolded Desmond the last time.

"Do you think I'm funny?"

"No, no, I'm not laughing at you," she hastily clarified, propping herself up. She then glanced at her phone and realized it was already four in the morning. "Mr. Park, it's quite late. How about you go back and get some rest? I can manage on my own—"

"Stop trying to act tough."

His gaze lowered as he interrupted her, and he efficiently gathered the lab reports and receipts from the table. Then, he spoke in a gentle tone, "Let's head home together."