

A Taste of Temptation: The Chaste CEO's Midnight Knock Novel

Chapter 42-52

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Chapter 42: Come Here, Suzy

Wendy's cousin, Jeffrey Palmer, whom Suzy had met before, displayed a notably distinct personality compared to Wendy.

He appeared mature and composed, having achieved the position of a physics professor at a relatively young age, indicating a well-educated background.

As Suzy arrived at the entrance of the church, she saw Wendy standing next to a pillar, waving frantically at her.

Suzy walked over with a hint of helplessness. "With so many people here, aren't you worried about them laughing at you?"

"Why should I be worried? It's because there's such a crowd that I was concerned you might not see me!"

Wendy laughed and gestured towards the person beside her. "This is my cousin, Jeffrey Palmer. You remember him, right? He's a professor who loves to chat!"

Suzy smiled and replied, "I remember him."

When Suzy and Wendy left their previous jobs and began working at FortuneWave together, Jeffrey, worried about his cousin, had taken the initiative to purchase a conveniently located small duplex, complete with all the necessary furnishings.

It was clear that he was a considerate and caring cousin,

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and his relationship with Wendy was very close.

Jeffrey helplessly patted Wendy's head and said, "I did it for your own good."

"Yes, yes, you and Mom are always on the same side!"

Wendy rolled her eyes and then placed her hand on Suzy's shoulder. "Let me introduce you properly. This is my best friend, Suzy Chase. She's beautiful and kind-hearted, and she's currently single."

Suzy was caught off guard by this introduction, but luckily Jeffrey knew Wendy's personality and extended his hand to Suzy.

"Hello, I'm Jeffrey Palmer. We met when I helped Wendy move."

"Hello, nice to meet you." She politely shook his hand and then withdrew her own.

The three of them first went to the main hall of the church for a prayer.

Then, Wendy mentioned that she was hungry, and Jeffrey offered to go buy some food and water for them.

As soon as he left, Wendy quickly started winking at Suzy.

"How about my cousin? Is there any possibility between you two?"

Suzy was taken aback. "Don't be ridiculous! Why are you

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playing matchmaker?"

"I'm not joking! Seriously, I found out yesterday that my cousin broke up with his girlfriend almost six months ago, and now he's single!"

When Wendy learned of this, she almost jumped with excitement.

"I wouldn't trust you with just any guy, but my cousin, I can guarantee with my life, he would make a great husband! He has a stable job, a high salary, and he's the only child in the family.

"My uncle runs a chain of supermarkets, so they are earning more than enough to cover your mother's medical expenses."

"Stop it!" Suzy quickly interrupted. "If that's your intention, then I'm leaving!"

"Why are you leaving? Haven't you taken a liking to my cousin?"

"I never even thought in that direction!"

She knew Wendy meant well, but this was just not possible!

Meanwhile, Jeffrey had returned with the food.

He gave Wendy a portion of snacks and specifically didn't put tomato sauce in the portion for Suzy.

"I remember Wendy saying you don't like tomato sauce."

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"Thank you..." Suzy initially didn't feel awkward, but after Wendy's comments, she suddenly felt uncomfortable.

After wandering around the church, Suzy expressed her desire to return to the hospital to see her mother.

"I'll drive you there; I came by car," Jeffrey said gently, looking at Suzy.

Wendy nodded vigorously from the side.

"Perfect! I want to explore around a bit more. You go ahead and take her!"

"No need! I—"

Before Suzy could finish her sentence, she suddenly heard someone call her name from behind.

She instinctively turned around and saw a black Maybach parked on the side of the road. The window was rolled down halfway, revealing Liam's exquisite handsome face.

"Suzy, come here."

Chapter 43: Know Her Role

"Mr. Park?!"

Suzy hadn't even had a chance to react when Wendy, standing behind her, exclaimed with astonishment.

The sudden appearance of Liam here was as unbelievable as winning the lottery!

Suzy could already imagine Wendy's expression without turning around, and she anticipated a barrage of questions.

So, she quickly composed herself, putting on a professional smile, and briskly walked up to the car.

"Mr. Park, is there something you want to ask me regarding work?"

Liam gave a cold glance at the person behind her but didn't reveal anything. "Get in."

"Alright."

Suzy nodded quickly and then waved to Wendy beside her. "I have some business to attend to here, so I'll leave now! I'll see you next week."

Seizing the moment before the situation could escalate, she got into the car promptly.

During the journey, neither of them spoke, and the

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atmosphere inside the car felt somewhat eerie.

Suzy couldn't pinpoint the reason, but she wondered if it had something to do with... a sleepless night?

As they got closer to the supermarket, Suzy finally broke the silence. "I haven't done my grocery shopping. Can you stop by the roadside for a moment?"

Liam, his lips still tightly pressed together, complied and drove into the underground parking lot of the supermarket.

Just as Suzy was about to get out of the car, he suddenly grasped her wrist.

"Who was that person I saw you with just now?"

Just now?

"It was my friend Wendy. We both work at FortuneWave, and she was also with me on the business trip to Newton City last time."

So, he must be aware by now, correct? Calling her name loudly in the street without warning could lead to significant consequences!

The crucial point was that Wendy was a real loudmouth.

However, it was clear that Liam's attention wasn't on that matter.

"What about the guy?"

"He's her cousin."

"Alright, and then?"

Suzy blinked, not understanding his point.

Was he thinking that Jeffrey was a suitable match and wanted to bring him into the Park Group?

"And then... he's a physics professor at the university, his father runs a chain of supermarkets, and he's the only child in the family."

She recounted all the information she knew.

But she noticed that Liam's expression was growing increasingly somber.

"You know a lot."

Before Suzy could respond, he had already exited the car.

Although she was not very skilled at guessing people's thoughts, she could tell that Liam was angry. This made the situation feel somewhat like a husband suddenly catching his wife in an indiscreet act.

Naturally, Liam didn't express his thoughts directly, and Suzy had no intention of prying. She understood her own role clearly.

After buying groceries and returning to Easter Bay, she cooked, and he worked as if everything was normal.

Except for that evening... when Liam was particularly aggressive in bed.

...

The weekend flew by, and it was finally the day for Suzy to go to the corporate headquarters.

Early in the morning, she took extra care to freshen up, dressed in professional attire, and double-checked that she had everything she needed before leaving.

"Let's go."

In the hallway, Liam was already dressed in a sharp suit, maintaining his impeccable posture even at home, exuding an air of elegance and refinement in every gesture.

She held her laptop bag and hesitated. "I can take the subway."

If anyone saw her getting out of the CEO's car, it would surely cause quite a stir!

"My car has a private parking spot; no one will see you."

"There's really no need! I'd like to familiarize myself with the subway route!"

"I don't want to repeat myself."

His tone had a hint of commanding authority.

Chapter 44: Genuine Admiration for Mr. Park

Liam rarely used this tone in private conversations, which meant he had made up his mind.

"Then thank you, Mr. Park."

...

When they arrived at the Park Group headquarters, Liam went straight to the conference room.

Suzy felt like he was in meetings all day long.

She carried her bag and went directly to find Alec, and upon seeing him, she understood why he sounded so familiar!

Wasn't this the same person who had blocked her at the door when she went to see Liam for a contract in Newton City?

"Miss Chase." Alec didn't seem surprised, as if he had known who she was all along.

"You don't have to be so formal, just call me Suzy!"

She was here for training, which meant she was apprenticing under Alec, so she couldn't let him address her so formally.

Her words seemed to surprise Alec.

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"No, Mr. Park personally asked me to take care of you, so I'll call you Miss Chase."

Alec had been with Liam for many years and had never seen anyone of the opposite sex get close to Liam in any special way. Even with the General Counsel, Sophia, Liam maintained a proper distance.

Now, suddenly, Alec was tasked to look after this young woman in front of him, and he knew her identity must be special at least in Liam's eyes.

Unable to argue with him nor explain her relationship with Liam to Alec, Suzy nodded.

"Then I'll trouble you in the future! I haven't been in this profession for long, so I might need more of your guidance, but I can take criticism, so if I make any mistakes, please point them out, and I'll make sure to correct them."

Alec was taken aback because he had never seen a young woman who would humbly embrace such a subservient role right from the beginning.

When he received Liam's instructions earlier, he had thought that she must be a temperamental young lady, perhaps someone entitled or difficult to deal with.

After all, this person was favored by Liam in the company.

However, after getting to know Suzy, his favorable impression of her increased significantly.

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"Well then, shall I first take you to familiarize yourself with the project department? And maybe introduce you to your office."

"Sure, thank you for your help."

After a walkthrough of the headquarters with Alec, Suzy had a clear understanding of the layout.

When she stood on the top floor's observation deck of the Park Group building, gazing at the impressive structure and the extensive domain of Northorn City influenced by the Park Group, she genuinely admired Liam.

Her admiration wasn't solely because of his wealth but also his competence and his serious attitude towards work.

Even though he possessed substantial assets and status, he still worked tirelessly on the front lines, dealing with a hectic schedule, and often burning the midnight oil.

He truly deserved the multiple awards as a nationally recognized young entrepreneur and was an exemplar in the industry.

After the tour, Suzy immediately plunged into her work.

The work environment here was much more intense than at FortuneWave. Everyone was focused, seldom lifting their heads to look around, their eyes glued to their screens.

At the end of the day, although Suzy was tired, she felt

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strangely exhilarated!

As the workday came to a close, Suzy tidied up her desk, double-checked tomorrow's flight to West City with Alec, and just as she was about to leave, Liam's call came right on time.

She couldn't help but wonder if Liam had installed surveillance in her office.

"Meet me at the place I dropped you this morning."

"You're done for the day too?"

"Yeah, I have an overseas project meeting at 1 a.m., and I can do it from home."

Suzy acknowledged and hung up the phone, heading straight to the underground parking garage.

Initially, she had a cheerful expression, but from a distance, she saw Liam standing next to Sophia.

It seemed...

Since she was at the headquarters, such a scene should be quite common.

Chapter 45: He Wasn't Jealous

Liam spotted Suzy just as she was about to hide herself.

"Suzy," he called her in a low and magnetic voice, his tone deliberate.

With her game of hide and seek foiled, Suzy reluctantly walked over. "Mr. Park, Miss Burns."

"We'll head off first." As soon as she approached, Liam opened the car door and got in.

Sophia waved, offering a smile to Suzy.

"Take care on the road, both of you. Liam, we'll discuss our matters when you return from your business trip."

"Alright."

Suzy patiently waited until Sophia had left before she joined Liam in the car. She discreetly glanced at him, her curiosity piqued by what Sophia had mentioned as "our matters."

What could it be?

"Feeling tired?" Liam used his slender fingers to adjust his tie and casually unbuttoned the top button of his shirt.

From Suzy's angle, she could vaguely make out a tattoo on his collarbone.

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"I'm alright. Mr. Lincoln didn't burden me with too much work."

"If the workload becomes too much, let him know."

His intention for Suzy to come to the corporate headquarters wasn't to overwhelm her with excessive work.

Suzy nodded, but her phone suddenly rang at an inconvenient moment.

She checked her phone and noticed a new friend request.

"JP has requested to add you as a friend."

Who could this JP be? After a moment of hesitation, Suzy decided to accept the request.

Not even a minute later, Wendy called her.

"My cousin added you on Facebook. He mentioned having a research project lately and wanted to chat with you when you're available!"

Suzy couldn't help but sigh. Wendy was determined to play matchmaker.

"I'm not kidding. Mr. Shaw will definitely be interested. If you were to introduce this project to Team Three, your status will definitely rise."

"Alright, I've added him. Thanks for giving me this opportunity."

After a brief conversation, she ended the call and looked at Liam, realizing that he hadn't shown any reaction this time.

It was a relief. It seemed his earlier unease wasn't due to jealousy...

Thinking about it, she knew it was unlikely for Liam to be jealous!

Back at Easter Bay, Suzy started packing her luggage. Committed to providing top-notch service, she knocked on the study's door.

"Liam, do you need me to help you pack for your business trip?"

He was leaning against his desk, looking at company reports. His robe was somewhat loose, revealing a large expanse of pale skin.

Upon hearing her voice, he sat up straight. "Yes, please. Get a few white shirts and two suits."

"Alright."

"And some pajamas, underwear, and condoms."

Suzy blinked in surprise.

How could he mention that word so casually and nonchalantly? Wasn't he even slightly embarrassed?

Moreover, considering the tight schedule for his business

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trip, how did he even have time to think about such things?

Silently leaving his study, Suzy obediently ironed and folded his clothes, placing them neatly in his suitcase. She also prepared ties, socks, underwear, and a box of contraceptives.

Before placing the condom inside, she glanced at the box, which indicated it contained five pieces, and she figured that should be sufficient.

With everything in order, Suzy prepared to take a shower. It was only then that she checked her phone and saw several Facebook messages from Jeffrey.

He greeted her quickly and then gave a brief overview of a smart personal transportation device they were working on with a group of professors.

Watching Jeffrey's concept video, Suzy was taken aback. The vehicle didn't just have self-driving and self-parking capabilities; it also had four-wheel steering that could rotate 360 degrees and the ability to fly at low altitudes in its early stages.

This truly caught Suzy off guard!

A vehicle that could be used both on land and in the air was indeed a vacant niche in the market. The domestic technology in this area had been relatively immature until now.

Chapter 46: He's the Only Man

It seemed like Wendy didn't lie to Suzy this time.

"I'm going on a business trip tomorrow. I'll discuss it with my manager when I come back! This project is indeed promising."

Jeffrey replied shortly, "Are you going on a business trip tomorrow too?"

"Yes, I'm heading to West City tomorrow."

"What a coincidence! I'm also going to West City tomorrow. I've been invited to give a lecture at the University of Technology. If you have time, we can meet up, and I can discuss this project with you in more detail."

Suzy wasn't sure if Jeffrey only wanted to talk about work when he suddenly asked her out or if it was a set-up by Wendy.

However, she did think the project was an excellent idea.

She couldn't afford to miss out on this project just because of her suspicions.

After some thought, she replied, "Alright, we can stay in touch."

Setting her phone aside, Suzy entered the bathroom. When

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she came out, she noticed an unread text message, but it wasn't from her WhatsApp.

Upon opening it, she realized it was from an unknown number.

"I heard you have become a mistress of a rich man. What will your mom say when she finds out?"

At that instant, Suzy felt as though a bucket of icy water had been poured over her.

Without thinking, she knew it was her father's mistress! Unable to cause trouble at her mother's hospital, she wanted to provoke her instead.

"What exactly is your intention?"

"I want you to find a way to get your mom to agree to divorce, and I won't tell her about this matter."

Reading this message, Suzy's hands trembled with anger.

Suzy had never thought someone could be so shameless! After being a mistress for over two decades, she was now plotting to force the lawful wife into a divorce.

However, Suzy was genuinely worried that if her mother found out about this, it would not only jeopardize the arranged marriage agreement but might also lead to many other problems due to her emotional distress.

Seeing that Suzy wasn't responding, the other side added a

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final sentence. "Don't try to push your luck. I'll really do as I said."

Liam walked in from outside, and what he saw was her solemn expression.

He casually approached Suzy and touched her shoulder lightly. "What's wrong?"

Startled, Suzy instinctively hid the content on her phone. "Not-Nothing..."

"Suzy, I think you should let your friend know that you're currently married."

Suddenly confronted with seriousness, she hesitated.

"Huh? The thing is, she's quite persistent with her questions. I'm not good at making up stories, and besides, I'd have to come up with a fictional husband to introduce."

Suzy was well aware of Wendy's personality. Wendy wouldn't just leave Suzy's husband's background unquestioned and certainly wouldn't easily accept a fabricated story.

"In that case, just tell her."

Liam's eyes remained fixed on her face as he tried to get something out of her.

"Tell her what?"

Suzy instinctively countered, revealing that she hadn't even

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considered bringing her marriage with Liam into the open.

After a few seconds of silence, Liam furrowed his thick eyebrows. "Am I really such an embarrassment to you?"

"But our contract is only for a year... When it's time to divorce, we'll have to explain!"

Suzy's tone was analytical as she continued, "I understand that you don't like Wendy introducing potential boyfriends to me, fearing that I might engage in some unclear relationships during the contract period.

"You're concerned about any potential physical consequences. You can rest assured, I have absolutely no intentions in that regard.

"If you feel that verbal promises aren't enough, we can add a breach of contract clause to our agreement. I have no objections."

She had already pondered Liam's comment about having OCD before.

Essentially, it came down to him struggling to accept her having relationships with other men, especially given her resemblance to his former love interest. His concerns made complete sense.

In reality, Suzy had only slept with Liam so far, but she didn't want to say she had given him her first time, feeling like it was a form of moral manipulation.

Chapter 47: Arriving At West City

Seeing her so earnestly discussing their marriage as if it were a business matter, Liam sighed.

"Let's wait a little longer."

He thought he might have been too impatient.

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Early the next morning, John came to pick them up for the airport.

Throughout the journey, Liam was busy communicating with shareholders, not even having time to take a sip of water. It wasn't until they were on the plane that he finally leaned back in his seat to rest.

Suzy naturally didn't disturb him. It was a good time for her to go through the materials sent by Alec.

The deeper she delved into this project, the more questions she had. The energy-saving company did indeed have good prospects.

However, did it really require the CEO of a major corporation like Liam to personally go on a business trip to West City?

It seemed like even if they doubled the investment amount, it wouldn't attract his attention.

He must have other matters to attend to.

The flight from Northorn City to West City took three hours. Suzy had already taken several pages of notes, and the man next to her was still asleep.

She wondered what time the late-night meeting had ended for him to be so fatigued.

Upon landing, Liam slowly opened his eyes, his thick eyebrows furrowing slightly. "Have we arrived?"

"Yes." Suzy quickly handed him a cup of warm water.

"You haven't eaten anything this morning, and you've been sleeping throughout the flight. Your stomach might feel uncomfortable later, so have some water for now."

Liam received the cup from Suzy and took a sip. "Thank you."

"You're welcome."

As she finished organizing the documents, this natural and relaxed interaction between the two of them was exactly what Liam wanted. He disliked the way Suzy sometimes behaved so cautiously around him, always looking up to him as a superior.

After landing, the CEO of SNS Company personally came to the airport to greet them. There were even local media waiting at the hall entrance to take photos.

Upon spotting the cameras, Suzy tactfully positioned herself

behind Alec, reducing her visibility.

"Mr. Park, your visit has brought a lot of attention to West City today!"

"You're humbling me. I'm a native of West City, and it's only right for me to come back and support the hometown development."

Only Liam could make such formalities sound so pleasant.

The media started taking pictures, and Suzy inexplicably took out her phone and discreetly snapped a picture of Liam's back.

He was wearing a light-colored overcoat with a deep blue suit underneath, which accentuated his tall and straight figure.

He looked like a celebrity posing for a magazine just by standing there! Despite his simple attire, he exuded an air of elegance, refinement, and gentlemanly charm in every move.

This man, whether in his student days or in the professional world, seemed to naturally belong at the pinnacle, as if he were born to be above all.

Soon enough, Liam was surrounded and ushered into a car.

Suzy, upon seeing this, quickly picked up her laptop, intending to catch up with Alec.

Before she could take a step, she heard Liam's voice.

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"Suzy, ride with me."

Suzy was taken aback.

With that statement, the attention of those present unavoidably shifted towards her.

To avoid further speculation, Suzy quickly smiled professionally, acting like an employee following her boss' wishes, and walked over.

"Of course, Mr. Park!"

Finally, they were inside the car, and she breathed a sigh of relief.

Seeing that Liam wasn't taking a nap, Suzy lowered her voice and said, "If you keep calling my name like that, the others might pay attention to me."

She couldn't understand why Liam had to call her out so conspicuously. Wouldn't it affect his reputation?

"Are you afraid of being seen?"

Chapter 48: Her Father

"...I'm not afraid of being seen; I'm worried about people speculating about our relationship."

Liam had been in the business world from the start, and he had never been involved in any scandalous news. The only rumors that might have circulated were related to him and Sophia.

Now, on a business trip, if people were to spread rumors about him bringing a female associate and behaving intimately, it could cause unnecessary trouble.

Besides, since Suzy would be following Alec, she wouldn't be too far away from Liam and wouldn't get lost in West City.

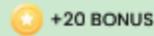
"Our relationship is not something that should be a subject of speculation," Liam said matter-of-factly.

To him, it was just a matter of not going public. After all, they were a married couple, so there was nothing to fear in terms of rumors.

However, Suzy interpreted his words differently.

Liam was deliberately getting close to her, and he insisted on doing so in public...

Could it be that he was having another dispute with Sophia and wanted to provoke her with this?



She was increasingly disgusted with her role as a tool.

However, she couldn't avoid it and had to be prepared at all times.

After all, when Liam approached her, he was paying and putting in effort, and his aim was quite clear.

Suzy didn't say anything more; she just gazed out of the car window.

It had been five or six years since she had last returned, and the previous visit had been a hurried one, where she canceled her rented apartment and rushed to Northorn City with her mother for medical treatment.

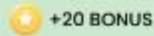
In today's West City, development was rapid, with skyscrapers springing up everywhere.

The rise of the IT industry had led to the establishment of numerous technology parks, and the government was fully supporting economic development. With foreign investment pouring in, it was common to see foreigners on the streets.

As the car arrived at SNS Company, Liam continued to walk ahead, surrounded by admirers.

Suzy deliberately followed Alec at a leisurely pace and spoke softly, "I did some research before we came here. I looked into the information and photos of SNS shareholders.

"The guy in the gray suit following their CEO goes by the



name George Taylor. He's been involved in three share changes within SNS, and it seems he was thinking about leaving SNS before. However, when he saw that Park Group was interested, he chose to hold onto his shares."

The timing also aligns with our observations.

Alec nodded as she followed Suzy's gaze. "Your analysis makes sense. Later, we'll need to discuss this with the lawyer and the company accountant, taking into account the changes in business registration."

"Alright."

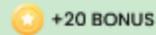
Because Liam's personal visit to SNS had stirred up attention from various departments, it would be difficult for him to leave early today.

By late afternoon, Alec was getting a bit tired and called Suzy over. "You're from West City, right? Is there anywhere good to eat around here?"

Suzy hesitated. "Uh, yes, there are... but do you need to accompany Mr. Park to socialize? They mentioned going to a hotel to continue their discussion."

"Mr. Park brought his PR secretary with him today, and in a while, not only SNS Company personnel but also officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be coming. I'm not suitable to accompany them."

Suzy suddenly realized. "Oh, I see. Then let me treat you to



some local hotdogs here. We can grab a quick meal and be done in half an hour. It won't take up too much time."

Alec raised an eyebrow in approval. "Mr. Park values you for a reason."

He realized this competent colleague with sharp perception, employed in a subsidiary like FortuneWave, appeared to be not fully utilized.

Suzy gave a sly smile and found that Alec wasn't as rigid and old-fashioned as she initially thought. In fact, he displayed more smiles in his daily interactions than Liam did.

After searching for hotdog places nearby on her phone, they called a taxi and made their way to one.

As they settled in and ordered their food, Suzy suddenly noticed a person who was both unfamiliar and yet strangely familiar.

It was Victor Chase, her father.

Chapter 49: His Affair

It was a small world indeed!

Before coming here, Suzy had considered the possibility of encountering her family, but she didn't expect to see him right after her arrival. No wonder that woman had been causing trouble lately and mentioning divorce.

It turned out they had returned from abroad.

This wasn't good news.

"Do you think this guy, George Taylor, wants to leave SNS because there's something wrong with the company?" Alec's voice brought her thoughts back.

Suzy nodded and purposely sat with her back to her father.

"Otherwise, even without Park Group's support for going public, SNS would still be making good profits. Unless he has a better opportunity elsewhere, leaving money on the table without earning it is a cautious decision."

Investing in a company at its early stage implied a special attachment. It could be a strong friendship or family ties. In any case, as an original shareholder, he must have thought carefully before taking action.

Moreover, changes in share ownership, from declaration to realization, would take time, indicating that George was

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determined to leave.

"Then, let's check George Taylor's holdings in other companies."

Suzy smiled and immediately pulled out her phone, scrolling through some information before placing it in front of Alec. "Here is the latest information."

"Miss Chase, I have to say, I'm impressed by you."

Alec was also a workaholic. Even though the hotdogs were served, he didn't start eating but began to examine the documents instead.

He praised her with just a sentence, but it caught the attention of the man behind them.

"Suzy?"

Suzy didn't give a reply.

"Is it really you?" Victor walked over, and before he could speak, she got up first.

"Mr. Lincoln, I have something to attend to. It might take me ten minutes. I'll be back in a bit!"

Alec waved his hand. "Sure, go ahead."

Suzy took a step and walked ahead, with Victor following her out of the hotdog shop.

As soon as they stood outside, he spoke with an unfriendly

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tone, "Why are you back in West City again?"

"For work."

If it weren't for work, she wouldn't want to come back here.

"Do you still need to work? Aren't you with a rich man now?"

Victor's words were quite harsh, and he didn't show any respect to his daughter. He said it right there on the street, not even bothering to lower his voice.

"It's none of your business." Suzy was growing impatient. "My mother and I haven't requested your money or relied on your reputation. You'd be wise to focus on your own matters."

"How dare you speak to me like this?! Suzy, I am your father! Don't act all high and mighty with me. You're as shameless as your mother!"

Suzy's cold demeanor provoked Victor, and he raised his voice unconsciously.

At first, Suzy had intended to handle him swiftly and depart, but his insult towards her mother provoked her.

"Shameless like my mother? That's quite a laughable statement coming from a man who abandoned his family after cheating in his marriage!"

"You!"

"Save it. Tell that woman to back off as well! We've reached

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this compromise not because we're weak, but because we won't stoop to fighting over worthless things!

"If you keep pushing us, I won't hesitate to bring all of this to the media! The Chase family in West City still has some dignity left. Think about the consequence."

Suzy uttered these words and then headed back into the restaurant.

Behind her, Victor was furious. "You dare to threaten me? Fine! Don't blame me for ignoring any sense of decency! Get ready to watch how I'm going to deal with your mother!"

Chapter 50: Silencing Others

Suzy dismissed it as mere barking. That woman had always aspired to become the legitimate wife, so she relentlessly pressured Victor to divorce.

Victor and Melissa had countless arguments, but Melissa refused to sign the divorce agreement, insisting that the other woman should forever hold the position of a mistress.

Suzy understood her mother's reasons for this, as it was crucial for Melissa to continue living. Even Suzy had to take a back seat to that.

Back at SNS, when Alec noticed her troubled expression, he chose not to inquire further, treating it as though nothing had happened.

After their meal, they were summoned back to the SNS office.

Liam and his team had likely just finished their meal and were now seated on the sofa in the banquet hall. His suit jacket rested over his arm, and his long legs were crossed.

Upon spotting Suzy, he raised his hand and gestured for her to approach.

Without hesitation, she walked briskly to Liam's side and greeted him with a courteous smile. "Mr. Park."

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"Let me introduce you. This is Frank Chapman, the CEO of SNS."

"Hello, Mr. Chapman," Suzy replied, not understanding the reason behind Liam's sudden introduction of this individual.

Nonetheless, she maintained proper etiquette, not wanting to embarrass Park Group.

Frank, recognizing that Liam had deliberately introduced him to Suzy, extended his hand with a friendly smile. "Nice to meet you."

"Suzy has been appointed to oversee our collaboration. If you have any questions or need assistance, you can directly contact her."

Liam's words hit Suzy like a bombshell, creating a sense of bewilderment within her. When had she become the project lead? She still felt inexperienced!

"I would have never expected someone as young as Miss Chase to be Mr. Park's indispensable right-hand person. I must admit I underestimated you," Frank said, now looking at Suzy with a different perspective, and there was a hint of eagerness in his eyes.

After all, pleasing Liam was a challenging task, so he decided to focus his efforts on others.

"Thank you for your kind words."

Suzy was brought into this small talk by Liam and didn't leave SNS company until it was dark outside.

On their way back to the hotel, Suzy couldn't help but ask, "Most of the credit for this project belongs to Mr. Lincoln. Isn't it unethical for me to take credit like this?"

She was worried about making enemies so soon after arriving at the headquarters.

"Mr. Lincoln handles many projects, and he won't mind this," Liam replied, rubbing his temples. A day filled with social engagements had left him tired.

"It isn't about whether he minds or not, it's a matter of ethics for me."

"Suzy Chase," Liam suddenly called her by her full name, his tone serious. "Everyone at the headquarters, even the lowest-ranking employees, has an impressive resume. If you want to stay, you must have one too."

That was the only way to silence the critics.

"If it's because of that, I'd rather not stay at the headquarters. I'll go back to FortuneWave after I complete my training."

Suzy was stubborn, and if something didn't belong to her, she would feel a deep sense of guilt. It would keep her up at night, overthinking it.

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Liam furrowed his brow and remained silent for a few seconds before speaking, "This project was originally intended for you. Mr. Lincoln knew from the beginning that he was in a supporting role."

Suzy was taken aback by Liam's revelation.

"Don't doubt it. I've said I won't give anyone special treatment, but I believe in your capabilities. You can handle the main responsibilities of this project. It's just that you lack experience in many aspects, which is why Mr. Lincoln is acting as your mentor."

Suzy looked at Liam, feeling like this man completely eluded her understanding, impossible to read.

He was the one who coldly rejected her application, and now he was suddenly promoting her.

Chapter 51: Return to Alma Mate

She suddenly fell silent, and Liam met her gaze.

"What's the matter? Are you doubting your abilities?"

"...Thank you for your trust, Mr. Park. I will do my best."

Since she couldn't figure it out, she decided not to dwell on it any longer. She couldn't read him, so she might as well not try.

The opportunity was right in front of her, and whatever his motives were, it was ultimately a good thing for her.

If this project progressed smoothly, she could not only pay off Liam within a year but also have no worries about her mother's medical expenses in the future.

"Stop at the intersection of Billard Road," Liam suddenly spoke, and the driver nodded, finding a parking spot.

Suzy realized they had arrived near her alma mater.

"Would you like to take a walk?" Liam raised an eyebrow.

She nodded. "Sure."

In truth, Suzy didn't have many memories of her junior high days, but Liam was a significant part of them.

Walking on the road in front of the school again, she felt a sense of nostalgia. She took out her phone, snapped a picture, and carefully saved it in her cloud album.

"Do you still play basketball now?" She asked, looking at the new school playground, and reminiscing about the times with Liam.

Unlike the other boys who would come back from playing basketball all sweaty, Liam was different. Even if it meant arriving late for class, he would rush to the dormitory showers to clean up.

Back then, Suzy was too young to realize that Liam had OCD. She even accidentally dirtied his school uniform a few times.

"I occasionally play."

Liam walked beside her, his tall frame casting a shadow under the moonlight.

Suddenly, Suzy spotted a fast-food restaurant across the street from the school gate!

It was still open! She worked there before during her junior high days. The owners were a friendly couple from the northeast, always wearing smiles.

After evening self-study sessions, she was fortunate that this place remained open. It was her only chance to have a proper meal and savor it.

"I want to check that place out!"

Without waiting for Liam's response, she hurriedly ran towards it.

What surprised Suzy even more was that the owners were



Without waiting for Liam's response, she hurriedly ran towards it.

What surprised Suzy even more was that the owners were still the same married couple! They were currently cleaning the floor inside, and it seemed like they were about to close for the day.

"Can I make an order for a chicken burger set meal?" Suzy hesitated for a moment, then walked over and spoke up.

Since she might not return to West City for a long time, she knew she couldn't miss this chance.

"Sure, please take a seat over there and wait." The owner pointed to a nearby table.

She was about to prepare the meal for her when suddenly she paused and said, "Hey, you look so familiar!"

Suzy narrowed her eyes and smiled, "I'm Suzy Chase. I used to help out here during my middle school days."

"Ah! You're that young girl! No wonder you seemed so familiar!" The owner was a warm-hearted person and started chatting with her right away.

"You must have graduated from college by now, right?"

"It's been many years since I graduated."

"You've become even more beautiful than before! Back then, I told my husband that you would definitely grow up to be a

beauty. Look at you now, proving me right!"

Suzy chuckled. She liked their friendly manner, and even though they hadn't seen each other for so many years, the warmth remained.

"Why do you close up so early now? I remember back then, you used to stay open until the junior high's evening self-study sessions ended."

"We've always closed when it gets dark."

The owner thought for a moment and suddenly remembered something.

"Oh, right! It was because of a very tall and handsome young man back then. He gave us some money and asked us to keep the place open until 10 o'clock every night."

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Chapter 52: If Not For This Face

Young man?

Seeing the surprise on Suzy's face, the owner raised an eyebrow. "Oh, you didn't know! I thought he made the request just for you."

After all, back in those days, it was usually only Suzy who would come to dine after evening classes.

"It probably wasn't because of me." Suzy couldn't imagine anyone treating her that way during her junior high days.

After having a conversation with the owner about the school's changes for a while, Suzy didn't want to delay them from heading home to get some rest, so she decided to take the set meals as takeout.

Leaving the shop, she saw Liam waiting for her on the opposite side of the road.

He hadn't followed her into the shop; he was just standing there, smoking a cigarette.

"You've never been here before, have you?"

As a wealthy young man, he should have looked down on this kind of food that common folks ate.

"I have."

Liam extinguished the cigarette, casually taking the takeaway bag from her hands, then continued walking beside her.

Suzy glanced at him. "Oh?"

"I'm not as high and mighty as you might think."

Even though the Park family was well-off back then, it was far from the heights it had reached now.

"Do you think their food is good?"

"It's decent. I ate there for two months in a row."

This surprised Suzy, and she couldn't help but chuckle.

"I'll tell you a secret. I secretly worked here for two months during my junior high days! Fortunately, I was tall enough not to be recognized as child labor, or I would have really felt guilty towards the owners! At that time, I practically begged them to hire me."

Liam curved a small smile, quietly listening to her reminisce about the past.

As they walked and chatted, they arrived at the pre-booked hotel. The burger in the takeout bag had already turned cold, but Suzy still took a bite.

"It tastes just like I remember."

She wanted another bite, but Liam took it away from her.

"Don't eat it. It's cold, so it's not good for your stomach."

It seemed like he was very concerned about her stomach issues.

Suzy paused for a moment, realizing that Sophia probably had gastric too. That was why Liam was always reminding her.

It wasn't like she deliberately thought about Sophia, but every time she faced Liam's concern, memories of his tattoo on his collarbone, the password to his place, and Sophia affectionately calling him "Liam" kept floating into Suzy's mind.

"Are you hungry?" Liam asked when he noticed her silence, thinking she was upset about him taking her burger.

He spoke gently, "I'll have John bring some food over."

"No need! I bought this burger on a whim anyway," she replied as she grabbed her pajamas from the bedside. "I'm going to take a shower."

Suzy hurried into the bathroom, looking at herself in the mirror, feeling an inexplicable sense of frustration.

Suddenly, she despised her own face!

Although it was because of her face that she had gained Liam's attention and her mother had the chance for surgery, it also constantly reminded her of her role as a substitute.

Ever since agreeing to the deal with Liam, Suzy had claimed she wasn't moved by all his kindness and thoughtfulness.

However, that was far from the truth. In her entire life, she had seldom experienced genuine care or concern, from childhood to adulthood.

But what was most cruel was that she knew all too well that these heartwarming gestures were all meant for Sophia; she was only receiving his kindness because of her resemblance to Sophia.

Without this face, she probably wouldn't even have the chance to speak with Liam privately!

That night, Suzy was particularly proactive in bed, even though Liam was already satisfied and tired, she didn't call for a halt.

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